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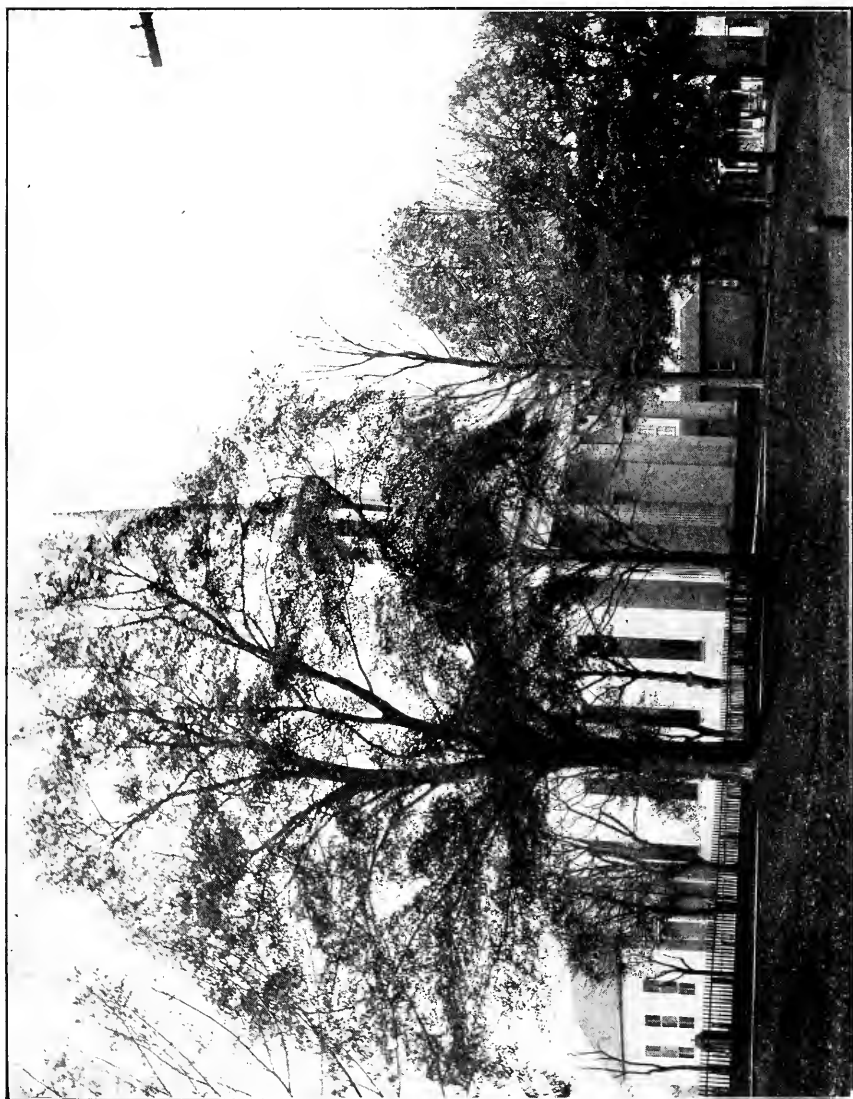




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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, DURHAM, CONN.

# MILES MERWIN

1623 - 1697

AND ONE BRANCH

—OF—

HIS DESCENDANTS

—BY—

CAROLINE GAYLORD NEWTON

[Doubtless, Caroline.]

1909

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# MILES MERWIN

1623-1697

AND ONE BRANCH OF HIS DESCENDANTS

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In the early part of the year 1630, in the town of Plymouth in England, there was a solemn ceremony, of the organization of a church composed entirely of those who were about leaving, or had already left their homes, and were coming together, members of one church family, to make new homes in the new world of America.

Rev. John Warham, a man of excellent education and ability, a graduate of Oxford University, was installed pastor, and Mr. John Branker was ruling elder and school master.

There were one hundred and forty persons in this company, some of them little children, and among them was one boy named Miles Merwin, supposed to be at that time about seven years old, who was to cross the ocean in the care of his Aunt Abigail, the wife of John Branker.

They sailed from Plymouth the 20th day of March, 1630, in the ship *Mary and John*, called

“Mr. Ludlow’s vessel,” of about 400 tons burden.

They were ten weeks on the ocean, and as there were two ministers with them, they had preaching every day of the voyage.

The ship reached the land at Nantasket, Mass., on the Sabbath-day, May 30th, and the next day, Monday, they were put on shore with their goods and cattle.

After some exploration by ten men of their number, they chose a place for settlement, and named it Dorchester.

In that first year after their arrival in this country, they endured much hardship. They might perhaps have planted some seeds, as they were here in the month of June, but they must first have some shelter for wives and little ones, and with little sowing, there was little reaping, and in the winter of 1630-31, they suffered from hunger. They were near the coast, and clams, muscles and fish were the chief articles of food.

A pleasant sight to them were the friendly Indians who came with baskets of yellow corn on their backs for sale, and later, ships came laden with the same from Virginia, until, as one of them writes “they were filled with food and gladness. Then did all the servants of God bless His holy name, and love one another with pure hearts fervently.”



They remained in Dorchester five years, hearing much during that time about the fertile meadow land bordering on the Great River westward. Meadow land, so-called, which was comparatively free from forests, and did not need to be cleared by hard labor with the axe, was much desired by them, and in the autumn of the year 1635, about sixty men, women and children, with them young Miles Merwin, driving before them their cattle and swine, a tedious journey of many days, reached and crossed the Connecticut River, and settled themselves on its western shore, between that and the Farmington River, which they called the Rivulet.

Their new home they at first named Dorchester, but the name was changed to Windsor, at a meeting of the General Court in February 1636-7.

It was not to a wilderness they came, like the Pilgrims of 1620, a few having settled here before the coming of the church body; for this was the second removal of the church which had been formed in England, and there were no new ceremonies of church organization either in Dorchester or Windsor.

It was now the month of October, and but little time could be counted on for preparing shelter for themselves and their cattle.

Some began digging cellars, usually choosing

the slope of a hill; some chopped down trees and hewed them roughly and hastily; these laid around and over the cellars, and thatched with the dry meadow grass, were their abodes for the first hard winter, and served as foundations for the log houses to be later built.

The winter came early; the river was frozen over by the middle of November, and there was much suffering.

Many of the cattle died; one estimate says they lost in their dying stock, the value of £2400, and some of the remainder they were obliged to kill for food.

The Indians were numerous, and being at first friendly, helped out their supplies somewhat by corn and acorns.

All the land in the three neighboring settlements of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield had been honestly purchased of the Indians, although those Indians did not realize that they would be crowded out of their hunting and fishing by the palefaces.

The next year, in 1636, the Indians became very threatening, and formed a plan for driving all the white settlers from New England.

Upon their first coming to Windsor, the Indians were peaceful, and the settlers chose their home lots as far from each other as they pleased; but within two years, early in 1637, there was

evidently danger from some of the neighboring tribes, and every family who had been farther away moved to the center, those who were already there, giving up a part of their land to these others, and all giving their time and strength to cutting and setting a strong palisade of high stakes or posts, braced within, and encircled outside by a wide, deep ditch. I have seen traces of this ditch two hundred and sixty years later.

The whole length of this line of palisades was but little less than a mile, and after it was finished, a constant guard was necessary, lest the Indians should succeed in climbing over, or in setting fire to it.

The story of the Pequot War need not be told here. Miles Merwin was probably too young to have any part in it, but not too young to help in gathering the supplies, or to guard the Palisade, within which, for a time, all must dwell.

At the Court of the Colonies convened at Hartford, May 1st, 1637, it was decided that there should be an offensive war against the Pequots, and Captain John Mason, one of these Windsor settlers, was appointed commander of the ninety men who were to go against that tribe.

Windsor was to furnish thirty men, and as its share of supplies, sixty bushels of corn, fifty

pieces of pork, thirty pounds of rice and four cheeses. Each plantation must have its corn ground and a part of it made into bread.

Whether the corn-mill called Warham's Mill was in operation at this time, is uncertain, but it was running soon after, for in 1640 the record reads :

“Mr. John Warham has by gift of  
ye Town one acre of land more or less,  
lying by his mill, as it bounds north,  
beginning at ye fall of ye water out of  
ye Trough upon ye Wheel.”

Tradition claims that this was the first grist mill in Connecticut, and that it ground the corn of neighboring towns as far away as Middletown. The Colonists erected it, fitted it with a great clumsy wheel, and presented it to Rev. Mr. Warham, as a part of his support.

Twenty-four years later, in 1664, he gave a deed of it to his wife, Abigail Branker Warham, the aunt of Miles Merwin, and it is probable that Miles had spent many hours in watching the grain through the hopper, and taking the minister's toll.

The beautiful Green, near the old Windsor church, has always borne the name of Palisado Green in memory of the early Indian troubles.

After the close of the Pequot War, and the

return of Captain Mason and his men, some left the protection of the Palisade and returned to their farms, and there was but little more trouble with Indians.

The Rev. Mr. Warham removed across the Farmington River and built his house near the small Mill-brook upon which his mill was standing, and one of his numerous deeds mentions a "small palisade" which must have been set up there for the protection of those who could not in a time of danger, cross to Palisado Green.

It was several years before there was a permanent bridge, and the minister was obliged to cross in a row-boat or canoe every Sabbath day. The Rivulet, as they called it, was usually narrow and quiet, but in the spring it was often a wide roaring torrent.

In 1650, it was ordered at the town meeting that "upon the Lord's days, none shall go into the canoe before the magistrates and elders, and that there shall not go at any time above thirty-five persons in the great canoe, and not above six in the little canoe, upon penalty of five pence."

Mr. Branker with his wife and Miles Merwin, were living on the farther side near Mr. Warham, and as ruling elder, he with his family was favored with an early passage across the river.

The meeting-house was erected in 1640, but was not finished until a long time after that, for every board was sawed by hand, and the nails were made, one by one, by a blacksmith, and the trouble with the Indians had taken much time.

It is said by Cotton Mather that Mr. Warham was the first minister in this country to preach with notes. Some of his sermons are still in existence in the State Library in Hartford.

Mather, speaking of the notable energy and vigor of his ministry, says : "He was as pious a man as most that were out of Heaven." John Warham and Thomas Hooker had been friends in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and their friendship was continued in Connecticut as neighbors ; Warham having come in 1635, Hooker in 1636.

Besides his church and his mill, Mr. Warham had a fondness for dealing in real estate, as did many others who came from England, where a right in land was more difficult to obtain. There are on the records, twelve or more deeds of property with his name attached.

Miles Merwin, upon becoming of legal age, had this prevalent habit of buying and selling again.

He bought of Mr. Whiting a lot west of the Rivulet with the building thereon for £8. The

price seems very low, but this is supposed to have been the stone house which was built by Rodger Ludlow, who removed to Fairfield. The house was built on the bank of the river, between that and a smaller brook flowing into it, and the spring floods came very near it, on one occasion entirely surrounding it; so that it was "drowned very deep." Miles found it, for this reason or some other, "too hard" for him, and was released from his bargain.

He bought a lot in the Great Meadow for £20 and was released from this also by Mr. Whiting's executors.

Thomas Marshfield had built a house on the lot next north of Mr. Branker's in 1637, which was afterwards purchased by Roger Williams, who owned it for three years, and sold it then, in 1650, the homestead with the land, to Miles Merwin.

Miles was then twenty-seven years old, and was already married to Elizabeth Baldwin, widow of Theophilus Canfield, and it is supposed that the three elder children, John, Elizabeth and Thomas, were born in this house, which stood on the east side of Broad Street.

He sold the place in 1652 to Captain Samuel Marshall, but Marshall did not occupy it, and probably Miles Merwin remained in it until his removal to Milford.

In an old "Book of Rates" concerning seating the meeting-house in Windsor, under date of January 18th, 1659-60, Miles Merwin's name is down as paying seven shillings; this was the highest price paid for a man and his wife, and very few paid as much as that, but this was not the yearly payment.

When the meeting-house was built, pews were not provided, and each man apparently, paid for building a seat for himself.

Miles Merwin's was one of those raised a little higher than others, which accounts for a shilling more in price.

Miles Merwin was admitted to the church in Milford May 4th, 1661, his wife in June of the same year. Her youngest child, Daniel, was born June 30th, 1661.

Lambert's History says that Miles Merwin was in Milford in 1645, but this is a mistake which probably arose from confusing his name with that of Miles Moore, who was there at that date.

In the earliest original record of the Town of Milford, which I have carefully examined, Moore's name is spelled M-u-r, in the list of baptisms, as follows :

Deborah, dau. Isabel, wife of Miles M-u-r, bapt. Oct. 31, 1647.



Miriam, dau. Isabel, wife of Miles M-u-r,  
bapt. Dec. 12, 1647.

Lydia, dau. Isabel, wife of Miles M-u-r, bapt.  
Oct. 5, 1649.

On other pages of the record, the following :

Abel, son of Miles Moor, Feb. 15th, 1652.

Mary, dau. Miles Moor, Nov. 9th, 1653.

Elnathan, son Miles Moor, Sept. 1655.

In the list of planters in 1646, his name is  
Miles Moore.

This list of Moor children is inserted here,  
because some have erroneously supposed the  
Deborah, Miriam and Lydia, named above, to  
be children of Miles Merwin.

The first record in Milford of a baptism of  
the Merwin name is : "August 21st, 1656,  
Samuel Merwin, sonne of Miles Merwin of Mil-  
ford."

In the early Land Records of the Town of  
Milford, there are many pages closely written,  
on which the entries have no separate dates.  
The year is, in some cases, placed at the top of  
the page.

One page is dated 1649, then for several pages  
there is no date, the next being 1669, a period  
of twenty years.

About midway of these pages is the entry :

"Miles Merwin hath given him by this Court

for his Encouragement to settle with the Town, ten acres of land, five acres being in Brick Kiln Swamp."

The first entry of the Merwin name that I find with a definite date, is January 10th, 1654. There was then a grant "by the Town of Milford to Tanner Miles Marwin of a lott next unto Ensign Bryan's Warehouse by the harbour's side, for to build and improve his trade thereon."

Another "item" says, that Marwin's tan-works were a few rods west of Bryan's wharf.

"Feb. 7th, 1657, the General Court granted six acres of land to Miles Marwin."

"1657, Miles Marwin hath liberty to remove the gate and fence at the land, and to set it up again at the corner of the front of his lott, next the lott that is still in the Towne's hands, overthrowing that highway, and join it to Sam Coley's fence, which the said Miles Marwin undertakes to freely at his own cost, not only to remove, but to maintain it as his own for three years from that day, upon the condition that the Town will give him a little spot of marsh that lies with his lott which the Town or Court did grant him; but how far his marsh should run into the harbour he knows not; there is four rods by the house and eight by the other end."

Each planter kept up his proportion of the common fence, and carved the initials of his name on a stake at each end of his his own line.

It must be remembered that all the dwelling houses in Milford, at this time, were within the palisade for protection from the Indians. These palisades were large posts ten or twelve feet high, set so closely that a man could not pass between them, ingress and egress being only through the gates. Gates were made and kept in order by individuals, the use of more land being granted them for their trouble. Jonathan Baldwin had eighteen acres for the gate in Ferry Neck.

The land enclosed by the palisade at Milford was nearly a mile square, and in 1656, a law was made that no Indian should, on any pretext, be allowed to remain within it over night.

The Indians had a village at the place now called Burwell's Farms, and had been at times quite troublesome, especially so in the years 1645, 1646 and 1653.

At one time they had set the grass and woods surrounding the palisade on fire, and the settlers had serious trouble to save their homes from destruction.

The land had been purchased from the Indians, the price being six coats, ten blankets, one kettle, and a quantity of hoes, knives, hatchets

and small mirrors, but not all members of this Wepawaug tribe considered themselves bound by the transaction.

The last deed given by the Indians of land in Milford was the twenty acres on the high bluff now known as Welch's Point. The price then paid was six coats, two blankets and three pairs of breeches.

Thomas Welch, my great-great-great-great-great-grandfather afterwards bought it of the town for £21, 6 shillings, and it has ever since been called by his name, Welch's Point.

"Town-Meeting, January 10th, 1659."

"Ordered, that Miles Marwin have ten acres of land given him in the swamp about the Brick Kilns."

(Evidently this was wooded, as others were allowed to draw wood from it, and "if he do not improve it, it reverts to the town.")

"General Court held at Milford, March 19th, 1659-60.

"Miles Marwin hath liberty to have the remainder of his land which the town granted him, next to John Brown's land on this side of it, in the Indian side."

"General Court held in Milford, April 27, 1660.

"The town hath given liberty to John Stream and Miles Marwin to have the town line to run

on the outside of those Lotts, provided they bare the multiplication of fence, and also have the consent of the owners of that fence which lyeth against their land, and also that they be at the charge to remove the gates."

"April 27, 1660, item. The town declared themselves by a vote that Miles Marwin shall have that piece of land for his own properties which he hath taken in with his meadow at Oyster meadow, provided that he pay rates for it according as it shall be sized by Thomas Wheeler and Stephen Freeman, for they are appointed by the town to size it.

"*Item.* Miles Marwin hath liberty to lay down his piece of land in the Indian side, and to take up so much beyond Sarg't Fowler's or anywhere thereabout where he can find it."

Jasper Gunn is chosen by the town to measure the lands.

"1665. Miles Marwin is granted liberty to take up the land which was granted to Goodman Botts, by his own lott at sea-side, on the Indian side, convenient highways being reserved."

All these are from the Milford proprietors, and not deeds from one man to another.

In each case the name is spelled Marwin.

Land which was otherwise unclaimed was divided among the early settlers at different

times. There was one division in 1645, another in 1646, a half division, whatever that may mean, in 1658 and the other half in 1660; another half division in 1676, the remaining half in 1679. One in 1686, when there were 129 persons. The last one was in 1689.

In a division about 1676, Miles Marwin has two shares.

At a meeting of the General Court, January 6, 1687, there had been some difference between Lieut. Samuel Burwell and Miles Marwin about the line between their lands near the Round Meadow, and a committee of six men were appointed to adjust it. Their decision was accepted by both parties, and was signed, "In behalf of Father, I Thomas Marwin, am satisfied."

After receiving these grants of land from the Proprietors, and having sold his lands in Windsor, and received all he could expect from his Aunt Abigail, Miles Marwin purchased a large tract of land on the shore of Long Island Sound, some of it comprising a part of what is now known as Pond Point, Merwin's Point, and Woodmont, extending across Oyster River into what is now the Town of Orange.

Some of this land has ever since been, and still is, in the possession of his descendants, a period of more than two hundred years.

In the meantime, the circumstances of Miles

Merwin's relatives in Windsor has had greatly changed.

Mr. John Branker, the husband of his Aunt Abigail, a gentleman of good education, had been the first school-master, and long continued in that office.

February 1656-7 it was voted that Mr. Branker should have £5 paid to him out of the next town rate toward his maintenance of a school.

In his office as ruling elder of the church, having been regularly and solemnly ordained, he occasionally delivered the weekly lecture in the absence of the minister, and it was his duty to visit and pray with the sick, and in the public congregation, to pray and expound the scriptures.

He possessed considerable property, and dying May 29, 1662, he left it all by will to his widow, Abigail, who promptly married the minister, Rev. John Warham, at that time a widower.

Mr. Warham moved into her house, which was repaired for their use, but it was later sold to Thomas Allyn, who had married Mr. Warham's daughter Abigail.

The minister had a salary besides the income of the grain mill; in 1650, he had one hundred pounds; in 1656, four score and ten pounds.

In the year 1661, instead of a tax being laid,

his salary was paid by voluntary subscriptions, the smallest sum for the year being one shilling and sixpence; the largest, by Roger Ludlow, one pound, ten shillings.

The "toll" at the mill at the same time was one-sixteenth or two quarts in a bushel for English grain or malt grinding, and one twelfth for Indian corn.

Rev. Mr. Warham died April 1, 1670, but he had previously conveyed this mill to his wife, and a few days before his death, March 19, he had signed a will leaving to her all the property which had been her own before her marriage to him.

This was a necessary provision, for otherwise she would have had no real control of her own, though she had evidently used what power she had, for on April 11, 1670, eleven days after Mr. Warham's death, the record says:

"At a meeting of Assize, permission is asked to provide for debts contracted in the sickness of both Mr. and Mrs. Warham.

"The great expense that Mr. Warham's estate hath been at in mayntaning Mrs. Warham in the time of her exercises and affliction, upwards of two years, and her wastful disposing of many things without his privity."

Notwithstanding her "wastful disposing," there was considerable remaining, for his estate



inventoried well for those times: £1239, 10 s., the homestead being appraised at £250, land in the Great Meadow £100, books £82, 4s. &c.

Miles Merwin and his family, apparently Mrs. Warham's only relatives on this side of the ocean, had removed to Milford years before, but he visited his Aunt occasionally, and two of his children were her special favorites, one, Abigail, being her namesake, but she seems to have been offended by his leaving her in her old age. She had taken into her house to care for her after being left a widow, a family named Newberry, and they at her death came into possession of the house and furniture as their own.

A daughter of this family married a Mr. Rowland, and the house built by him, and still called the Rowland house, is built upon the John Branker home lot.

Mrs. Warham died in 1684, and although Miles Merwin was in Windsor on business in that year, it is not known whether he was with her at the time of her death; the family were in Milford.

There seems to have been trouble and disagreement over Mrs. Warham's will. She made what is called by the lawyers a nuncupative will, one not written, but made by word of mouth in the presence of witnesses, and this

was admitted by the Probate Court, and is now on record in Hartford.

Miles Merwin claimed that her written will, written sometime before, should be the one admitted, and presented his petition to the General Assembly in March, 1685.

To this petition this answer is recorded on page 190 of Colonial Records of Connecticut;

"A General Court held at Hartford, October 8, 1685.

"Upon the petition of Miles Merwin, this Court having heard what hath been presented against the settlement of Mrs. Abigail Warham's estate by the County Court, March 5, 1685, and what hath been said for the confirmation thereof, doe see reason to settlement of the estate according as the Court of Assistants May last hath done."

Although living at such a distance from Windsor, the first Miles Merwin seems to have displayed all the persistence in battling for what he considered his rights, that has been in later generations of the name, and in October of the same year, he presents another petition as follows:

Copy of Petition

Miles Merwin (Murwin)

Priv. Controv. Vol. 3, 91.

(State Library, State Capitol)

To the Honorable General Assembly, now sit-

ting in Hartford, ye Humble Petition of Miles Murwin showeth:—

That whereas, Mrs. Abigail Waram ( Wareham ) Late of Windsor, ( being hereby Relative to ye petitioner ) Did make her last will and testament under her name and seal, And in ye said Will Did Apoynt ye petitioner sole executor to her said Will & Gave to ye petitioner a considerable Legacy, upon which ye petitioner Did appeare att ye County Court in Hartford in March last, . . . . . obtained a probation of ye said will which was exhibited in said Court & two witnesses present ready to give oath yt they saw ye testator sign ye said will. But Capt. Daniel Clarke with some others made some objections against ye probation of said will by which means ye petitioner could not gaine a probation of said will. Your petitioner also delivered ye Witnesses to give oath to Mr. John Warams signing of ye writing intended by him for his last will and testament ( but not accepted for such by ye County Court ) but could not obtain that either.

But ye worshipfull County Court proceeded to a distribution or settlement of some part ( at least ) of ye estate of ye said Mrs. Waram to the great dissatisfaction of your petitioner upon which ye petitioner Did apply himself to ye

Honored Court of Assistants in May last for Releef, but not obtaining ye Releef which was expected I have made bold to present this my complaints and petition to ye Honors for Releef Humbly craving yt I may have liberty granted for ye reading of that writing have references to ye matters which are in Court and then impartially to weigh my evidence and plead in equal scales of justice. And if they do not out weight all ye evidence and pleas of my adversaries I shall willingly acquiesce in what sentence shall proceed from ye Honors. I doe most humbly crave yt I may have but what Law and Justice Gives mee that I may not bee much overrun by ye power and policy of my adversaries who I know to bee much advantaged in both but yet I Hope my Rituos cause will in part plead for it selfe. Soe Resting in Hopes I subscribe ye Honors in all Dutyfull submission.

(Signed) Miles Murwin, Senior.

Oct. 12, 1685.

This petition of Miles Merwin was also refused, and the will which was admitted, and which I have seen in the Probate Office at Hartford, is as follows :

“We underwritten being present with Mrs. Warham who spent her last days in our family,

she discoursing with us respecting her estate, she declared that she had formerly given her Cousin Miles Merwin such a multitude, that if she had thousands she would not give him a penny. *No, not a pinns poynt.* She further said that things were so with her now in regard of her long sickness and expense thereupon, that she could not tell whether she had anything to give away. She also disowned that she had any will, and said further that her cousin, Miles Merwin, desired that she would make over her estate to him, and she manifested herself much troubled, and said she knew not but that she might live to need and expend it, and that she had before she dyed.

Mary, the wife of Capt. Newberry, and Abigail, the daughter of the aforesaid, both affirm that Mrs. Warham sayd to them when she was of good understanding & sound memory concerning her estate, that if there was anything left when the Court had to consider thereof, she had thought that *little* Miles Merwin should have somewhat, and the other that lived with her so long, & as for her moveables that were brought into her house, Return Strong, Mary Newberry and Abigail doe testify she freely gave them to us, and sayd they should not be taken from us. The above sayd was by her

declared to us sometime last March. September 4, 1684.

Benjamin Newberry  
Mary M. Newberry's mark  
Abigail C. Newberry's mark  
Return Strong"

To this paper, the names of Miles Merwin's six older children only are appended, Elizabeth, John, Abigail, Thomas, Samuel and Miles, although ten must have been living at that time.

The one "who lived with her so long", was the eldest daughter, Elizabeth. Abigail Warham's estate inventoried one hundred and twenty-six pounds, fourteen shillings and six pence.

The Probate Court, March 10, 1684-5, ordered the Administrators, Captain Newberry and Return Strong, to distribute:

"To Miles Merwin, Jr., one third of the Estate:

To Elizabeth two thirds of one third:

To John, Thomas, Samuel and Abigail the remainder; Miles Junior to possess the Lands if he desire it, he paying his brothers and sisters as the Administrators may appoint."

This inventory and distribution appear not to include the house and furniture which Captain Newberry claimed, but the children of Miles Merwin inherited all except that. Whether the appeal of their father made any real difference

in the final settlement of the estate is not known.

The Merwin relatives were the only ones on this side of the ocean.

It was in this year of 1684, that Miles Merwin of Milford was a witness in the important law-case of Whiting vs. Bissell in Windsor, testifying concerning his own purchase and sale of real estate there, and it was probably from his testimony at that time, that Savage in his Genealogy takes the dates which he gives thus :

“Miles Merwin in 1684, calls himself 60 years old, but in 1692 says about 70. He died April 23rd, 1697, aged about 74.”

Miles Merwin's first wife, Elizabeth Baldwin Canfield, the mother of his seven older children, John, Elizabeth, Thomas, Samuel, Miles, Daniel and Abigail, had died July 10, 1664.

He soon married again, Sarah Platt, daughter of Deacon Richard Platt, and widow of Thomas Beach.

By her he had five children, Martha and Maria, twins born Jan. 23, 1665-6; Hannah, November 15, 1667 ; and Deborah and Daniel born April 24, 1670.

At the birth of this second pair of twins, the mother died, and probably little Daniel also, as the baptism of Deborah only is recorded. “Giving two sons in the family the same name, as

two here were named Daniel, though unusual, was not unknown later in the same family, perhaps in order that if one should die, a favorite name should not perish.

After her death, Miles Merwin married again, taking for the third time a widow, Sarah, widow of Daniel Schofield.

She had six children by her first husband, but none by Merwin.

Realizing that he must now be near the close of his busy and eventful life, he began to plan for the suitable disposition of his large property.

Besides his extensive farming operations, he had carried on the business of tanner and currier, and living on the seacoast, he became part owner of a sloop and two brigs, making voyages to the West Indies.

His eldest son, John, who was settled on the homestead with him, continued this commerce, and John's son-in-law, John Collins, commanding the ship *Swan*, sailed from Milford to the West Indies for sixteen years, until the *Swan* was finally lost at sea.

Ship building was carried on in Milford Harbor, on the eastern shore, across the bay from Miles Merwin's tannery.

The tannery business he gave to the eldest son, John. John had married April 12, 1683,



the widow Mary Holbrook, and they, with their little family, had lived in the father's home.

A deed dated June 4, 1695, gives to this "eldest son John, for consideration of one hundred and fifty pounds, the house in which they now dwell together, with Barn, Tanhouse, Salthouse and Leantoës, Tan-yard, Malt-house and all tools and Implements that belong to the trade of a Tanner, also Homelott, Orchard, Gardens, Yards and Marsh."

A deed dated May 17, 1695, gives to his son Samuel Merwin, a piece of land, the consideration being that Samuel shall pay his own eldest child ten pounds "as a Legacy from Mee."

At the same date he deeds Samuel sundry parcels of land.

The next year, March 9, 1686, he gives another deed of property to John.

Previously to all these, he had made his will, Dated May 5, 1695, apparently writing it out himself, and remembering all of his many descendants.

The item in this will, of fifteen Bibles for the fifteen grand children, seems to have been a common bequest in that century.

The will of Deacon Richard Platt, grandfather of six of Miles Merwin's children, dated 1683, bequeaths a Bible to each of the two younger ones, Hannah and Deborah Merwin, showing

that he had probably already given them to the older ones in his life time.

This little girl of thirteen years, Deborah Merwin, who received the Bible from her grandfather Platt, was my great-great-great-great-grandmother on my father's side. Her daughter, Mary Burwell, married Abner Newton and settled in Durham.

Many of the descendants of the first Miles Merwin, by this daughter Deborah, bearing the name of Newton, are still living in Durham.

Henry Gleason Newton, George Watson, Arthur Selden and Caroline Gaylord of the sixth generation from Miles Merwin; William, Frederic, Roger, Gaylord, Abner and Katharine of the seventh generation; Elmer and Stanley of the eighth.

All these descendants of Miles Merwin have the surname of Newton.

There is one little one, Elizabeth Mary, daughter of Frederic Alling and Harriet Camp Newton, his wife, of the ninth generation.

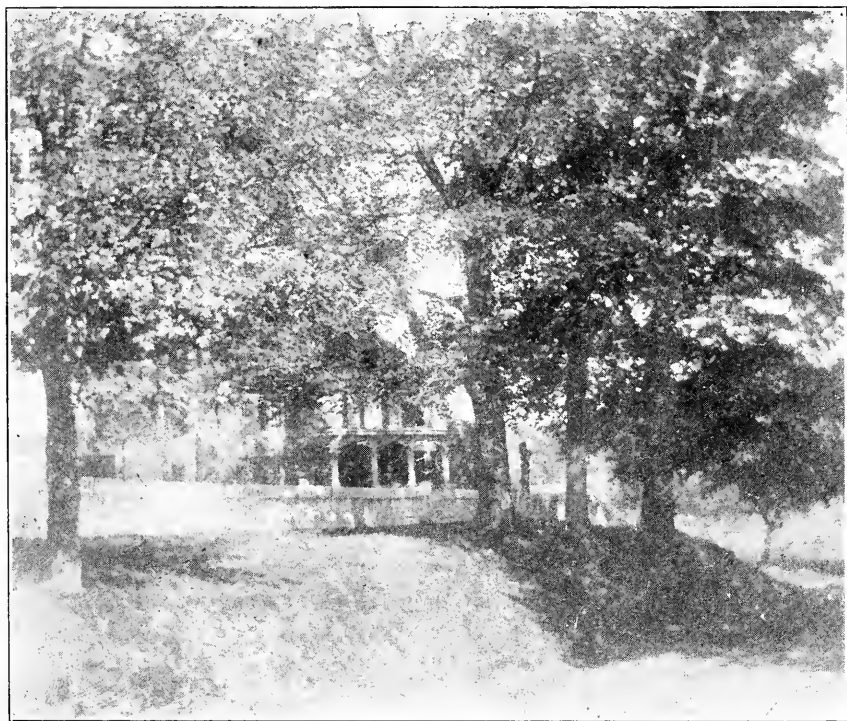
Henry Huntington Newton, of the sixth, for many years the eldest and most honored head of this branch of the family, died October 6, 1907.

There were besides, many descendants of those of this line who removed from Durham to Greenfield, Mass., about the year 1760, and to Hartford and Hartland, Conn., about 1780.



ROGER WATSON NEWTON  
 Sixth generation, age 84 years  
 CHARLES WATSON NEWTON, Eighth  
 KATHARINE HUNTINGTON NEWTON, "  
 ROGER ROSSITER NEWTON "





HOME OF HENRY HUNTINGTON NEWTON, DURHAM, CONN.



Deborah Merwin's brother Miles was our ancestor also, Deborah, in the line of my father, Gaylord Newton, and Miles in the line of my mother, Nancy Maria Merwin, by whom our family are counted in both the sixth and seventh generations.

### MILES MERWIN'S WILL.

The last will and testament of Miles Merwin of Milford, Senr in ye county of New Haven in New England, made this 5th day of May in ye yeare of ye Lord Christ, 1695.

I, Miles Merwin aforesaid, being in spirit & sound memory, & understanding, although under some infirmity of body, Doe heare make this my last will & testament in manner & forme as followeth :

First, I give & bequeath my soule into the hands of God through Jesus Christ who gave it, and my body to a Devout & Christian Buriall.

Imprimis, I give to my dearly beloved wife, Sarah Merwin, ten pounds a year during her widowhood. Also, I give the house and ye improvement of my Parlor & ye Leantoe, with what room she needeth in ye Cellar in what part she pleaseth, so long as she shall see cause to live in my house in her widowhood. Item. I give to my loving wife for her use while she

liveth in my house the use or power to command for her use in ye house two beds wth all their furniture . . . . in both for summer and winter, wth bed linen shee needeth for her comfort she shall have. Also she shall have power to command for her use ye oven in my other roome wth potts, kettles, skillets, pot-hangers, pails, wooden-ware of wht sort soever. And what earthen ware she needeth for her use.

Also for her use I give her her choice of my spinning wheels & power to command one or more when she needeth.

Also I give to my sd wife Cider enough to fill two barrells & ten bushells of apples yearly if my orchard at home yield so much; & if it prove a plentiful year at any time, then she shall have cider enough to fill three barrells, she finding barrells for ye whole, besides ye ten bushells of apples yearly. Also I give her ye use and benefit of one cow wh cow is to be maintained winter and summer by my executors.

All wh gifts and legacies be to her only during her widowhood. And if she see good to remove herself for some time, she shall have liberty to come again to my house when she pleaseth; but if she changeth her condition by marriage, then all the aforesaid guifts and legacies to cease, that is all which is above expressed.





KATHARINE HUNTINGTON NEWTON  
ROGER ROSSITER NEWTON  
Eighth in descent from Miles Merwin  
Page 28



And my executor shall pay unto my wife ye full sum of forty shillings a year during her natural life, which I will and bequeath unto her.

Item. I give unto my grandchildren: namely ye children of Sarah Pottet wch she had by John Pottet of Stamford, and to soe many of them as shall be living after my decease, the sum of twenty shillings apiece.

Item. I give to John Scofell of Stamford three pounds and ten shillings.

Item. I give to Mary Camp, wife of Samuel Camp of Milford, three pounds and ten shillings. Furthor my will is yt my wife shall have ye Dispose of ten pounds of my estate at her decease.

Item. My will is that those of my Children yt have not received their whole portion already, yt is to say John two hundred pounds, Thomas one hundred pounds, Samuel one hundred pounds, Miles one hundred pounds, with Compleating what is wanting to making ye just sum of fifty pounds to all and every of my own natural daughters, soe much as all or any of my children want of their portion, what any son wanteth of his hundred pounds as above expressed, and what any of my daughters want of their fifty pounds, shall be first paid by my executor after my decease.

Item. I give to my ten grandchildren one

hundred pounds: what is not already payd or paid by me while I live, shall be payd by my executor when they come of age: to ye eldest ye child of each family of my children's, it shall be payd, be they male or female.

Item. My will is, I give to all and every of my Grandchildren that shall be living at my decease One bible to be procured & delivered to all and every of them by my executor after my decease, as soone as may be with conveniency.

Item. My will is yt ye land I had of Nathll Farran, I say I will give it to my son John, his eldest child, to pay ye ten pound Legacy above mentioned to my Grandchild of ye house.

Item. My will is, my debts and Legacies being paid, yt ye Remainder of the estate shall be equally divided amongst all my natural children then living.

If any of my sons dye, ye family of ye deceased shall have their part, ye full of it. And if any of my daughters dye, there shall be no part of yt Dividable to ye house.

Item. My will is that my debts and Legacies be paid by my Executors.

Item. My will is, & I do nominate and appoint my two sons John Marwin & Miles Marwin to be my Executors of this my last will & testament. And further, if these Refuse or are

desabled, then ye full power to Execute shall be with the other.

And I do declare this is my will of all I have ordered to be paid for my deare wife, as is before expressed, the Burthen of it shall not be upon any one of my children, but it shall be borne by, and paid out of my estate by my Executors.

Item. My will is, & I heere declare it, yt if my son John Merwin shall have occasion for one hundred pounds stock for carying on his trade of farming, he shall have it out of my estate as be with him to be paid cash within six years after my decease by my sd son John His heires or Assignes as this my will directs.

Signed, sealed, and declared by Miles Merwin, Senr. to be his last will & testament in the presence of us.

Miles Merwin ( Seale )

Alex Bryan,

Josiah Plat, )

Edward Nilkison ) these 2 sworn in Court June 1697.

The names of ten children and fifteen grandchildren were written on the will in the Probate Office, as was the custom.

The children were all living at the time of his

death in 1697, except the two who were called Daniel, and all the daughters were married.

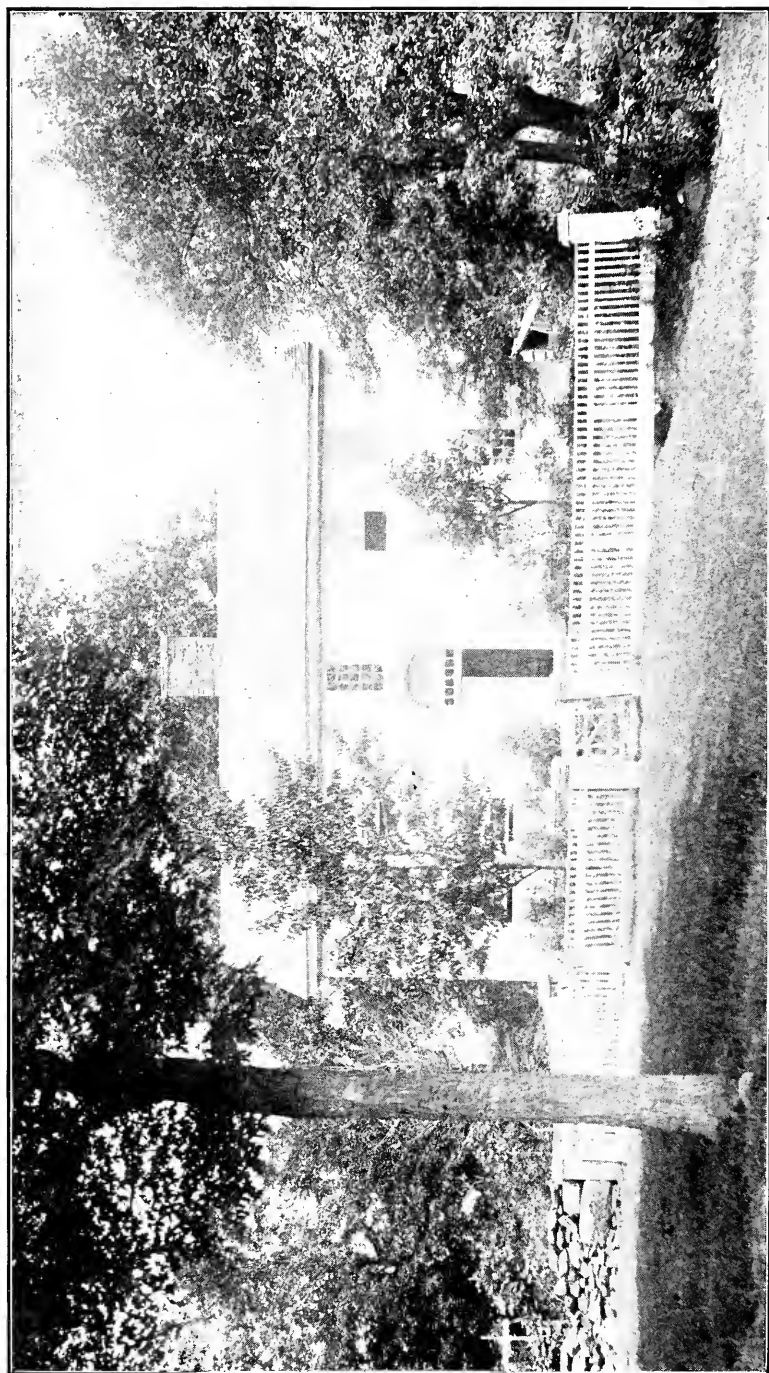
These are the names:	Grandchildren :
John Merwin,	John Merwin,
Thomas Merwin,	Thomas,
Samuel Merwin,	Sarah,
Elizabeth (Canfield),	Elizabeth,
Abigail (Scoffeild),	Abigail Canfield,
Martha (Prime),	Daniel Scoffeild,
Mary (Hull),	James Prime,
Hannah (Holbrook),	Mary Hull,
Deborah (Burwell),	Richard Holbrook,
(Miles Merwin),	Sarah Burwell,
	John Scoffeild,
	Mary Camp,
	John Pettit,
	Bethia Pettit,
	Mercy Beard.

John and Miles Merwin were sworn as executors in July, 1697.

The inventory of his possessions is dated May 12, 1697. The total was only £453, 11s, 11d.

A few items from the inventory give some idea of the prices of certain articles :

	£	s.	d.
Wearing apparel . . .	30	0	6
Buckles, etc. . . .	2	8	0
Sheets, pillow-beers, etc. .	40	0	6
One holland sheet, an old one, a feather bed, with curtains, blankets and coverlids .	17	0	0
Spoons, earthenware, woodenware	7	19	3



HOME OF MILES MERWIN (1795-1879) DURHAM, CONN.  
Now owned by his grandson, Asaph M. Merwin.





Miles Merwin's widow, Sarah Scofield Merwin, did not long survive him to enjoy her "potts and panns," her apples and cider, and her ten pounds a year.

She died in less than a year from the date of his death, March 5, 1698.

An inventory of her estate was made and preserved by the same men who had inventoried her husband's, Timothy Baldwin and John Smith, and it was sworn to before Richard Treat, Deputy Governor, June 16, 1698.

Here is part of it :

	£	s.	d.
One bedding with silk grass . . . . .	1	9	0
Caps . . . . .	4	2	0
Silk Caps . . . . .		8	0
2 Silk Hoods . . . . .		18	0
Handkerchiefs . . . . .	1	8	0
Two special handkerchiefs . . . . .		5	0
Pr. bodkins and stays . . . . .		5	0
Gloves . . . . .		3	0
One manchester . . . . .		2	0
Two famars . . . . .	2	5	0
One safeguard . . . . .		16	0
New chest and lock . . . . .		13	0
One half thousand of pins . . . . .		2	0

"Waistcoats," aprons, stockings and petticoats, red and blue ones especially mentioned,

were almost innumerable, the total amounting to £55, 19s. 3d.

Nathan G. Pond, in his pamphlet entitled "Ye Story of ye Memorial," that is, the story of the Milford Bridge, speaks of "a most interesting deed of entail made by Miles Merwin."

It would appear that Miles Merwin had no particular idea of founding a family to be called by his name, in the new world, according to the customs of Old England whence he came, and which he remembered, until the birth of his fourth son.

The first three had been named John, Thomas and Samuel, but when the fourth came, Dec. 14, 1658, he gave him his own name, and later gave him a deed of the best portion of his property, providing that it should always be inherited by the eldest son of the eldest son.

This deed was probably written by himself, two years before his death, and is curious for its exceedingly careful provisions.

"THIS INDENTURE, made the thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord God one thousand, six hundred ninety and five, between Miles Merwin, Sen'r Taner, of the one party, and Miles Merwin, Jun'r., of the other partie, both parties belonging to Milford in the County of New Haven in the Colony of Connecticut in New England *witnesseth* that the said Miles

Merwin, Sen'r, for and in consideration of the conditions which hereafter in and by those presents reserved and contained which on the part and behalf of the said Miles Merwin, Jun'r., are and ought to be paid, done and performed, full-filled and kept, hath given, granted, bargained, sold, alienated, Enfeoffed and Confirmed, and by this his present deed doth grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoffe unto his said son, Miles Merwin, Jun'r., a certain parcell or tract of land, being all and every part of that his farm commonly called and known by the name of Merwin's farm, situate lying and being within the bounds of Milford afforesaid at a place called the Indian side according to the limits bounds and extends thereof as may fully and plainly appear by the Records of Milford afforesaid as it belonged or ought to belong to the afforenamed Miles Merwin, Sen'r., Together with all Buildings, Edifices, Courtlages, gardens, Hontyards (courtyards?), Lands, Meadows, Pastures, Woods, Underwoods, Wasts, Wayes, Waters, Water-courses, easements, Proffitts, Privilidges, Appurtenances and Advantages whatsoever thereon being; thereunto belonging or thence arising by any manner of way or means whatsoever, as also two Oxen, five cows, and three other brooding Cattell, one Horse and one brooding mare and fourty sheep upon said farm together with the

Carts, Ploughs, Chains, tackling and all other Tools and Implements belonging to the said farm to *Have* and to *Hold* the said farm with all the buildings and Edifices, Cattell, Stock, Carts, Ploughs, Implements and all the singular the Premises with their and every of their Appurtenances before by these presents bargained and sold or meant mentioned or intended to be hereby granted, bargained and sold, and every part and parcell thereof from and after the decease of him the said Miles Merwin Sen'r., unto the said Miles Merwin, Jun'r., to the use and behoof of the said Miles Merwin, Jun'r., for the term of his natural life, and from and after his decease to the use and behoof of the First Son of the said Miles Merwin Jun'r of his body lawfully to be begotten and for default of such issue to the use and behoof of all and every other son and sons of the body of the said Miles Merwin Jun'r begotten or to be begotten one after another as they shall be in seniority of age and priority of birth, and of the heirs of the body of every of the same sons respectively to be begotten, the elder of the said sons and the heirs being always preferred before the younger and the heirs of their bodies. And for default of such issue to the use and behoof of Thomas Merwin, Son to the said Miles Merwin, Sen'r, and of the heirs males of the body of such First Son Lawfully to be be-



CHARLES NEWTON.



gotten, and for default of such issue, to the use and behoof of all and every other Son and Sons of the body of the said Thomas Merwin, Lawfully begotten or to be begotten, one after another, as they shall be in Seniority of age and priority of birth, and of the heirs of the body of every of the same sons respectively—the Elder of the said Sons and the heirs of his body being allways preferred before the younger and the heirs of their bodies.

And for default of such issue to the use and behoof of the First Son of Samuel Merwin, son to the said Miles Merwin, Sen'r., and of the Heirs Males of the body of such First Son—lawfully to be begotten, and for default of such issue to the use and behoof of all and every other son and sons of the body of the said Samuel Merwin lawfully begotten or to be begotten one after another as they shall be in seniority of age and priority of birth and of the body of every of the same sons respectively, the Elder of the said sons and the heirs of his body being allways preferred before the younger and the heirs of their bodies; and for default of such issue then to the use and behoof of the right heirs of the said Miles Merwin, Jun'r, forever. And the said Miles Merwin, Sen'r., for himself, his heirs, Executors and Administrators doth covenant promise and Grant to and with his said son

Miles Merwin, Jr., and said heirs by these presents that all the said farm Buildings and Premises and every part and parcell thereof with the Appurtenances now are and be and soe from time to time and at all times hereafter forever, shall or may remain and continue to the several respective uses before herein mentioned limited and declared according to the intent and meaning hereof freely cleared and discharged of and from all former and other bargains, Sales, gifts, leases, mortgages, troubles and incumbrances whatsoever, had, made, committed or done by him the said Miles Merwin, Senior, or any other Person or Persons lawfully claiming or to claim from, by or under him. Upon the condition following, that is to say, that the said Miles Merwin, Junior, or the heirs, as afore mentioned, shall well and duly pay, or cause to be paid, the full and Just summe of five hundred pounds, that is to say, twenty-five pounds a year till the full end and term of twenty years from and after the time of the decease of the said Miles Merwin, Senior, be fully completed and ended. In such pay as shall yearly be raised or produced off the said farm (Sider only excepted), to be paid at prices current between man and man, to all the children of the said Miles Merwin, Senior, (his Eldest Son John Merwin only excepted), equally to be divided among them, the





CHARLES WATSON NEWTON  
Eighth generation



said Miles Merwin, Junior, being one of them to have his share, and if any of the said Miles Merwin, Senior, his Sons dye before the receipts of such payments, then such payments shall be yearly made and paid during the whole time aforesaid to the children of such sons deceasing equally to be divided among them, but in case any of the said Miles Merwin, Senior, his daughters dye before the time of such yearly payments, then the said payments shall cease as to them and their children. Such daughters so deceasing before the time of such payments be due, their children shall not have any benefitt or share of the same. And it is covenanted granted and agreed by and between the said parties to these presents, and the said Miles Merwin, Senior, doth covenant, grant and agree to and with his said Son, Miles Merwin, Junior, and the Heirs as aforesaid that if it should so happen in any of the years of payment as above said that there should be extraordinary loss in Crops or Stocks on said Farm, that then the said Miles Merwin, Junior, or the heirs as aforesaid shall not be compelled to pay the said yearly payment in such a year wherein he or they have suffered such losses, but shall have further time to pay it in.

In Witness Whereof the said Miles Merwin Senior to these presents hath sett to his hand

and seal the day and year first above written in the seventh year of his Majesties Reign William the Third, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith.

Not that notwithstanding what is above mentioned the said Miles Merwin Senior reserves liberty to himself if he shall by Providence be reduced to a low state, to sell part or all of the fore mentioned farm for his subsistence which his said Son Miles Merwin Junior or one of his male children shall have the first refusal of, and deduction in such case to be made out of the above said five hundred pounds, according to the price that any part of the said farm shall be sold for ; this notation being entered before signing and sealing.

Miles Merwin (Seal)

Signed, sealed and delivered  
in the presence of

Bartha : Langstaffe,  
Joseph Hollingworth,  
Stephen Miele.

This deed was acknowledged by the above written Miles Merwin, Senior the sixth day of June  
Ano Dom 1695 to be his act and deed before me

Recorded July the  
8th, 1695.

J. S. Bryan, Reg'r Alex Bryan, Commissioner.



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TOMBSTONE IN THE MILFORD CEMETERY  
of Miles Merwin, who died April 23d, 1697  
aged 74 years



John Merwin, the eldest son, remained in the home of their father, carrying on the same business of the tannery besides trading to the West Indies.

He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Welch, and widow of Isaac Holbrook, April 2, 1683.

Miles also married a widow, Hannah Wilmot, widow of Samuel Miles, September 26, 1681.

In those days of the settlement of different parts of New England, and the Indian wars, almost every woman appears to have been left a widow once or twice at least. The three marriages of the first Miles were all to widows.

This Miles of the second generation with his wife, Hannah, settled on the entailed estate given him by his father.

Their only daughter, Elizabeth, was born January 10, 1683. She married a son of Governor Robert Treat, but died young, leaving two little children.

Miles Merwin <sup>2</sup> and Hannah Wilmot had two sons, Miles and Daniel; Miles, the first born son, being the heir, according to the deed of entail.

This Miles, the second generation, born 1658, made his will, bequeathing as much of his property as he had power over, Oct. 21, 1721.

He had evidently a firm faith in the literal resurrection of the body, for the first provision is:

"I desire my body to have a decent burial, I believing that I shall receive it again."

He left one hundred pounds to be divided equally between the children of his daughter, Elizabeth Treat, lately deceased.

He gave Daniel one good young cow besides what he had already given him in real or personal estate, but the house and land he could not give, it belonged to his son Miles.

In the time of a later Miles, this house had a trying experience. It was plundered, but not destroyed, by the British troops, when they landed in Milford in 1779.

Lambert's History says :

"Twenty British ships lay off Milford a number of days, the inhabitants hourly expecting an attack, but only a few landed at Pond Point, and plundered one house, that of Mr. Miles Merwin. The house was closed at the time, the family having gone into the town."

Milford had already seen much of the dreadfulness of war, before the slight matter of the plundering of the Merwin homestead.

In January, 1777, a vessel bearing a flag of truce arrived at Milford Harbor, having on board two hundred Americans who had been prisoners of the British on their ships at New York.







HENRY HUNTINGTON NEWTON  
1841-1907  
Seventh in descent from  
Miles Merwin  
Eighth from Richard Platt



CAROLINE GAYLORD NEWTON  
Seventh by her father  
Eighth by her mother



They were perishing with starvation, cold and disease; twenty had died on board the ship, coming up the sound, in the bitter winter weather.

The residents of Milford and surrounding towns came to care for them, but within a month, forty-six more had died, and were buried in one grave, in the south part of the Milford grave-yard. A tall brown stone monument inscribed with the forty-six names, marks the spot where they lie.

This was the time when my great-grandfather, Elisha Fairchild, drove his team of horses down from Middletown, to take some of those helpless ones back to their homes.

They were suffering with the small-pox; he contracted the disease from them, and died within a month, a real martyr of the Revolution, though not dying in battle.

He had been a soldier in the French and Indian War, coming through that unharmed.

He left a widow and five little children, one of whom, Abigail, became the wife of Abner Newton, my grandfather.

One of those for whom he thus give his life, was William Butler. Butler received a pension, living to a good old age, but the young widow and children of Elisha Fairchild were given no pension.

Returning from this digression to the third generation of Merwins, Daniel, second son of the second Miles, born in 1691, when he arrived at man's estate, saw his elder brother John settled in the family homestead, and his younger brother Miles<sup>3</sup> on the land which was to be his and his son's forever.

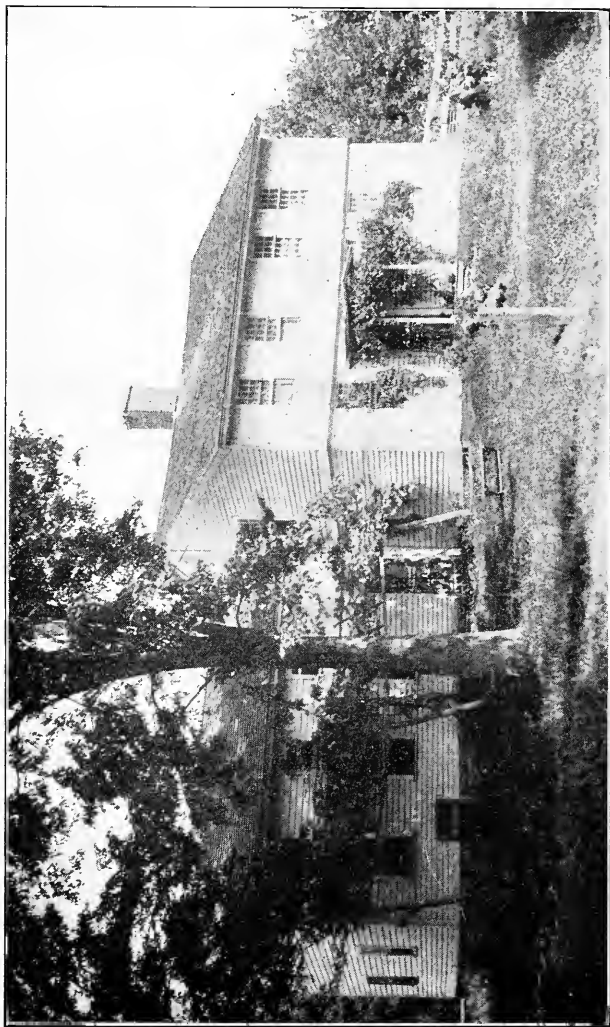
The Merwins of those early generations seemed always ready to settle in a new place, a trait not entirely unknown in those of later years.

Miles, the first, had several times taken the journey between Milford and Windsor, and at the time of his death, little Daniel, his grandson, a child of six years, and living near, had probably often heard stories of these journeys, which might have been through what was afterwards known as Durham.

No white man had settled there, and the spot was not much frequented by the Indians, though well-known to them as a hunting ground.

There was a cleared field on the farm now known as the Gaylord Newton Farm, which has always been called "The Old Field," as the only place in that neighborhood where the Indians cultivated corn.

Whether or not little Daniel heard of the place from his grandfather, he certainly heard about it, as he grew to manhood, for most of



HOME OF DEACON GAYLORD NEWTON  
Sixth generation, Durham, Conn.  
Seventh from Richard Platt





the settlers in the new town came from Milford.

The first house in Durham was built in 1699, and the number of settlers increased until a patent was granted to the Town of Durham, May 21, 1708. This original patent now hangs in the Town Library in Durham.

The inhabitants, though few in number, believed in the independence of the people, and held a town-meeting December 24, 1706.

At this town-meeting before there was a town, four of our ancestors were elected to office: Nathaniel Sutliff, Constable; Samuel Fairchild, Selectman; Joel Parmelee, Fence Viewer, and Robert Coe, Lister, or Assessor.

At the same meeting it was voted that they desired the town of Durham should be annexed to the County of New Haven.

The early name of this tract of land was Coginchaug, though spelled in many different ways. The old deed held by the Merwin family dated 1687 reads: "a piece of land in a place called Cogonshake;" and for the record, it is marked on the outside "a deed of Cockingcheg." This was the Indian name signifying Long Swamp.

In 1704, the name was changed to Durham by the Act of the General Assembly, though it was not then a town.

The main street was originally planned in the southern part, on a hill which is still known by the name of Meeting-house Hill, but before any building of importance was erected, it was changed to its present location, most of the land on this ridge between two valleys, now comprising the village, being then in the possession of the Talcott family of Hartford.

"Ye Worshipful Mr. John Talcott" was one of the first settlers in Hartford, having a house built for him in 1635 on the corner of Main and Talcott Streets, and moving into it with his family in 1636.

His son, Lieutenant Colonel John Talcott, our great, great, great, great-grandfather, was a famous fighter in the Indian wars, and had this Durham land granted to him for his services.

He was one of three men appointed to have charge of the Charter of the State granted by King Charles II, in 1662.

Roger Wolcott is authority for the statement that when the Charter was hidden in the oak October 1, 1687, this Lieut. Col. John Talcott secured it from the table, when the lights were extinguished, as he might lawfully do, having been appointed to keep it in charge. The Record reads :

"Oct. 9, 1662. The Pattent or charter was

this day publicely read in audience of ye freemen, and ye freemen made choice of Mr. Willys, Col. John Talcott and Lieut. John Allyn to take the Charter into their custody, in behalf of ye freemen."

Lieut. Col. John Talcott died in the year 1688, and his youngest son Hezekiah, then a little child two years old, inherited a part of the Durham land.

The second wife of Lieut. Col. John Talcott, and the mother of Hezekiah, was Mary Cook, possibly daughter of Major Aaron Cooke, Senior, whose will dated August, 1690, bequeaths to his "Grandson, Aaron Cooke, son of my son Aaron, a parcell of land being three hundred acres lyeing between Middletown and Wallingford, being in ye Colony of Connecticut, formerly granted to Major Nash of New Haven by ye general Corte, and soe by deed to me."

It is more probable that this Mary Cook, mother of Hezekiah Talcott, was the daughter of Jacob Cook who came as a child with his mother to this country in the ship Ann in 1623.

His father Francis, and his brother John, came in 1620 in the Mayflower, the mother and younger children coming three years later. John and Jacob had each a daughter named Mary, born at nearly the same time, the daughter of John marrying a man named Thompson, the

other Mary probably becoming the second wife of Colonel John Talcott, and mother of Hezekiah, whose daughter, Mary Talcott, married Miles Merwin in 1743, thus making all of the Merwin family of Durham, Mayflower Descendants.

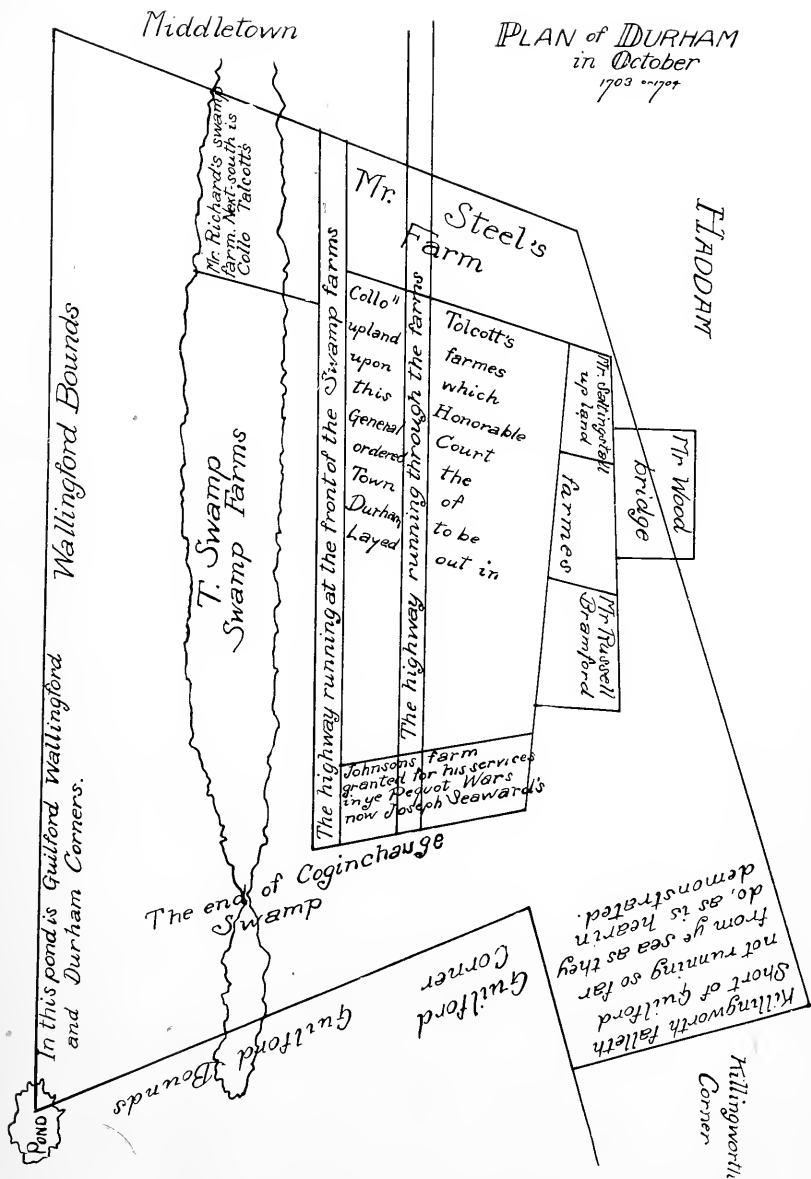
John Talcott, though holding his land from the General Assembly, joined in purchasing it from the Indians also.

In the Records of the General Assembly is the following entry, dated May 13, 1703.

“This Assembly doth empower the guardian of Mr. Hezekiah Talcott to sell a convenient number of lotts out of the said Hezekiah’s land at the place called Cokinchaug, to accommodate the inhabitants there with a convenient place for a town platt, according to the proportion due from the said Hezekiah, for settling the said towne.”

In the original plan of the town, dated 1704, which I have seen in the immense safe in the Capitol at Hartford, and of which I have a copy, the land marked as belonging to Hezekiah Talcott, extended the whole length of Main Street, from the old tavern, which was first kept by Samuel Weld, and later by John Swathel, to south of the green, a full mile in extent.

In the Town Patent granted by Governor Saltonstall, May 21, 1708, the name of Hezekiah





Talcott is the first of the seven Patentees whose names are given.

The thirty-four men who were residing in Durham at that time, were called the Patentees or Proprietors, and I consider it an honor that I am descended from six of the thirty-four; Joel Parmelee, Samuel Fairchild, Nathaniel Sutliff, James Curtiss, Hezekiah Talcott and Robert Coe.

These Proprietors continued to hold their own business meetings distinct from town-meetings for many years, admitting others to their privileges by vote among themselves.

There is a deed dated Feb. 1st 1703-4 from "John Permele, husbandman, to my brother Joell Permelee, of all my right of a Part of a two-hundred acre farme that I bought of Abraham bradley of S<sup>d</sup> Guilford at a place commonly called Cauchinchag, neare Middletown, containing 65 acres more or less."

A part of the land belonging to Hezekiah Talcott was given without price, to encourage settlement in the new town, as was the custom throughout New England.

In May, 1701, land was distributed by lot in allotments of thirty acres each, to twenty-three different persons, among whom the following were our ancestors or relatives:

Joel Permele, John Permele, John Sutliff,

Nathaniel Sutliff, Samuel Camp, Joseph Coe, and others.

In the early Land Records, very many pages are filled with copies of deeds from Hezekiah Talcott, but not the very earliest, as he was not then of age.

March 28, 1707 there was recorded a deed from Hezekiah Tallcot and Eunice Tallcot of Hartford to James Wadsworth of Farmington, acknowledged before Joseph Tallcot, Justice of ye peace.

May 6, 1708, a deed of land to Saml. Camp, Senior, and on the same date, one to Benjamin Baldwin from Hezekiah Talcott.

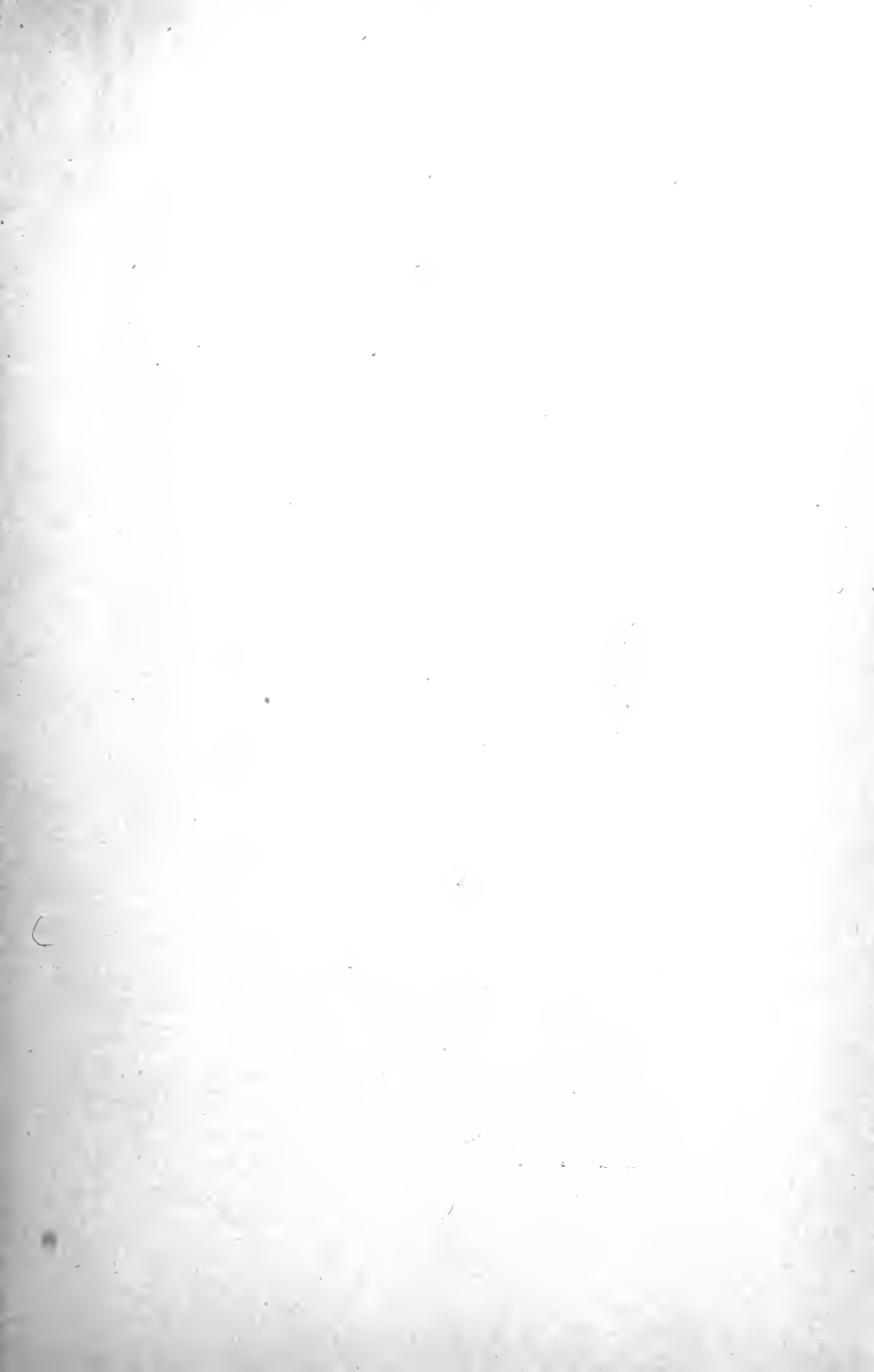
March 28, 1710-11, Joseph Talcot gave a deed of his share of 562 acres inherited from his father, Colonel John Tallcot, deceased, to his brother, Hezekiah Tallcot.

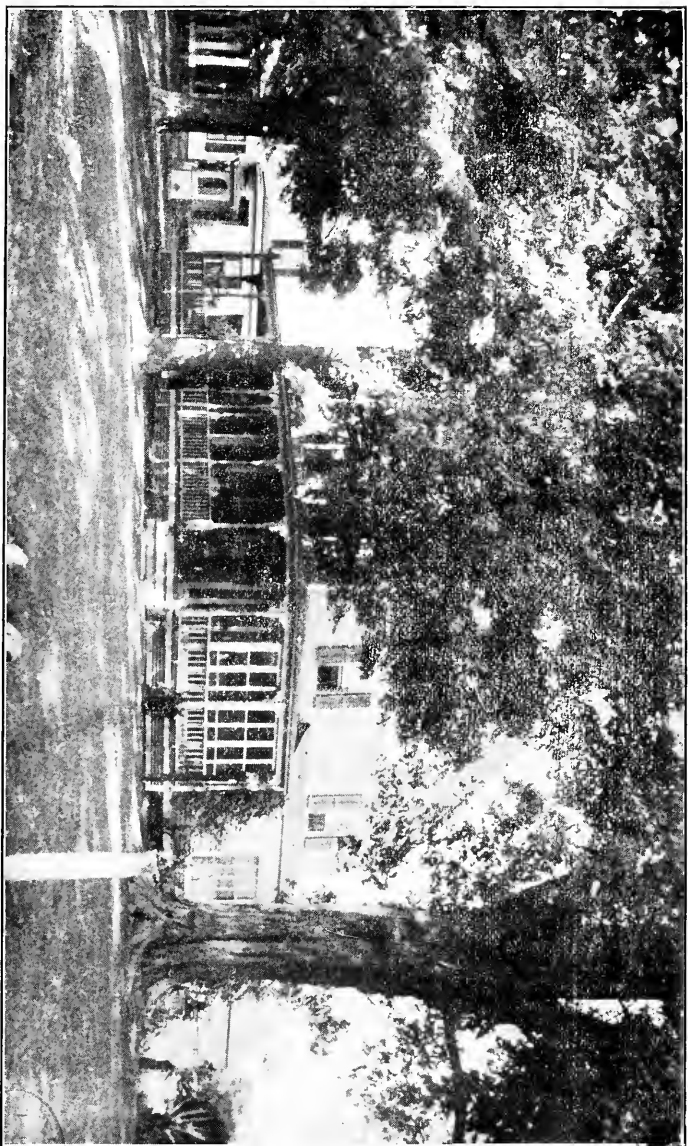
Hezekiah's home was near the place where now stands the house of Mrs. Mary Gatzmer.

In the year 1721, it was to this young town of Durham, that Daniel Merwin, of the third generation, with his wife, Sarah Botchford and their five little children removed, followed later by his cousin Mary Burwell and her husband, Abner Newton, and other families from Milford.

Both Merwin and Newton settled on the Main Street, Merwin purchasing the house which is







House occupied in succession by three generations, Daniel Merwin<sup>3</sup>, his son, Lieut. Miles Merwin<sup>4</sup>  
and grandson, Job Merwin<sup>5</sup>, Durham, Conn.

now occupied by William C. Hubbard, and Abner Newton purchasing the Mill-pond property, and several acres north of it with two houses, the places now owned by W. R. Atwell and Frank Barton.

Daniel Merwin had married, November 30, 1710, Sarah Botsford, Daughter of Elnathan Botsford. Their children were:

Ann,	Born November 20, 1712
Daniel,	“ September 15, 1714
Ann,	“ March 24, 1715-16
Sarah,	“ June 10, 1718
Miles,	“ November 29, 1719
D. Miles	“ March 27, 1721
Elizabeth	“ February 14, 1722-3

Daniel Merwin became prominent in the affairs of the new town, and is called Honorable Daniel Merwin in the records, a prefix not given in those early days without good reason.

He made large purchases of land, some extending beyond the bounds of Durham into Middletown, a part of which is now covered by the Middlefield Reservoir, and westward to the Wallingford bounds.

“April 13, 1721, Daniel Merwin of Milford, purchased of Nathan Camp of Durham, a dwelling house, barn, and home-lott of six acres for £100. bounded eastwardly, westwardly, and northerly

by highway, and southwardly by Samuel Norton's home-lott."

This is the house owned by William Hubbard, and shows that the road running between William Scranton's and Herbert Southmayd's then extended through to Brick Lane, as it was laid out on the first plan of the Town.

Daniel Merwin, and his son Miles and grandson Job, each in succession with his family, lived and died in that house. It has been very much altered and improved since their time.

Nathan Camp, who was the original owner, was also our ancestor.

Dec. 5, 1721. John Camp, Jr., of Milford, sold to Daniel Merwin of Durham, 31 acres for £140.

Dec. 19, 1721. Robert Coe of Durham, sold to Daniel Merwin of Durham, ten acres west of the swamp, north of the Wallingford road for £40.

Sept. 10, 1722. Isaac Chauncey and Nathaniel Chauncey sold to Daniel Merwin 65 acres for £180.

One hundred acres of land purchased at this time by Daniel Merwin was a part of the tract given by the General Court to Major John Nash of New Haven, and sold by his heirs to Major Aaron Cook of Northampton, Mass. This original deed, dated October 27, 1687, and also





Graves in Durham Cemetery of Daniel Merwin 3, his son, Lieut. Miles Merwin 4, and grandson, Miles Merwin 5.

the original deed to Daniel Merwin, are now in the possession of the children of Miles Talcott Merwin in Durham.

It was long before the boundary line was exactly settled between Middletown and Durham, and Daniel Merwin had much to do in its final location, the papers concerning it still remaining in the family.

In 1733, the town voted that it was needful to build a new meeting-house, and Sergeant Daniel Merwin and others were appointed "to consider the heighth, length, bredth and dementions of the meeting-house, and discourse the best and most able carpenters."

This second meeting-house was raised in May, 1736, and was still unfinished in November, when a tax of twelve pence per pound was laid to finish it, with Daniel Merwin, Collector.

When the town voted to build this meeting-house, in 1733, the appropriation for a "skoole" was reduced from £6 to £3 for the year.

Daniel Merwin died April 17, 1766, in his 79th year. His wife, Sarah Botchford, died September 23, 1764, eighty-two years old, and their grave-stones, large, handsome brown sandstone, are on the summit of the hill in the old burying ground with those of their children and grandchildren.

Their eldest son, Daniel, was born in Milford, and was a boy eight years old when the family moved to Durham.

He married December 20, 1738, Elizabeth Wells of Haddam. Their little son James was born October 19, and ten days later, Oct. 29 the young wife died.

May 11, 1741, Daniel was married again to Mary Burrett and by her he had seven children, Elizabeth, Elinathan, Sarah, Daniel, Ann, Israel and Hannah.

This Daniel Merwin, Junr. was one of the subscribers to "The Book Company of Durham," which was formed October 30, 1733, and said to be the first Public Library in the Colony or State of Connecticut.

He died May 15, 1758.

Slavery was in existence in Durham then, as it was in all the towns of the state, and his widow sold at least one slave, in settling his estate the year after his death.

The bill of sale I copy from Fowler's History of Durham.



Durham, June 19, 1759.

Know all men by this present: that I the subscriber, widow Mary Merwin, Executrix of the last will of Daniel Merwin, Junr., do sell, alien and convey and confirm unto Elnathan Chauncey of Durham in the County of New Haven, to him and his heirs, one certain negro man, about 30 years of age named Ginne, for and during his natural life, it being for the consideration of 13 pounds already received to my full satisfaction, in witness hereof I set my hand and seal, this 19th of June in the year of our Lord 1759.

In presence of

Mary Merwin.

James Tibbals,

Abner Newton.

Miles Merwin of the fourth generation, second son of Miles and Sarah Botsford, born Nov. 29, 1719, was a child not quite three years old at the time of the removal from Milford to Durham.

The explanation of the name given to the third son, a baby one year old at this time, of D. Miles, seems to be the fear that either Daniel or Miles might die, as so large a number of little children did die in the early settlement of the country, and the desire that the little one might continue the name of either.

Miles was a young man of twenty when the first military company was organized in Durham in 1739.

James Wadsworth, born in Farmington, but one of the very early settlers in Durham, was made Colonel of the Tenth Connecticut Regiment of Militia, and the cartridge-box and accoutrements now in the possession of the heirs of Miles Talcott Merwin, marked "*Ind Com'y. Xth Reg.*" seem proof that it was the one carried by Lieutenant Miles Merwin, under the command of Colonel Wadsworth.

His sword also is treasured by us, his descendants, as being undoubtedly the one carried by him in the French and Indian War, and also in the War of the Revolution.

In the Colonial Records of Connecticut, on page 70, Vol. II, is the record of an Act of the General Assembly in Hartford, May, 1757:

“This Assembly do establish Mr. Miles Merwin to be cornet of the troop of horse in the Tenth Regiment in this Colony”, the cornet of a company being the officer who carried the standard in a company or troop of horse, the second officer in the Company.

Seven years later, May 1764, page 255, Vol. XIII of the Colonial Records reads:

“This Assembly do establish Mr. Miles Merwin to be Lieutenant of the Troop of Horse in the Tenth Regiment in This Colony.”

This Tenth Regiment of Connecticut Militia continued its organization during the War of the Revolution, and was frequently in service. It was at the Danbury fight in April, 1777, reinforced Washington on the Hudson, and served faithfully until peace was declared.

Lieut. Miles Merwin had married when a young man of twenty-four, his bride being only twenty.

The record of their marriage reads: “Miles Merwin and Mary Talcott were Joyned in Marriage June 30, 1743.”

She was the daughter of Hezekiah Talcott, (b. Feb. 24, 1685-6; d. Feb. 13, 1764), who was the proprietor of the best part of Durham, and of his wife, Jemima Parsons, grand-daugh-

ter of Cornet Joseph Parsons, one of the founders of Springfield, Mass.

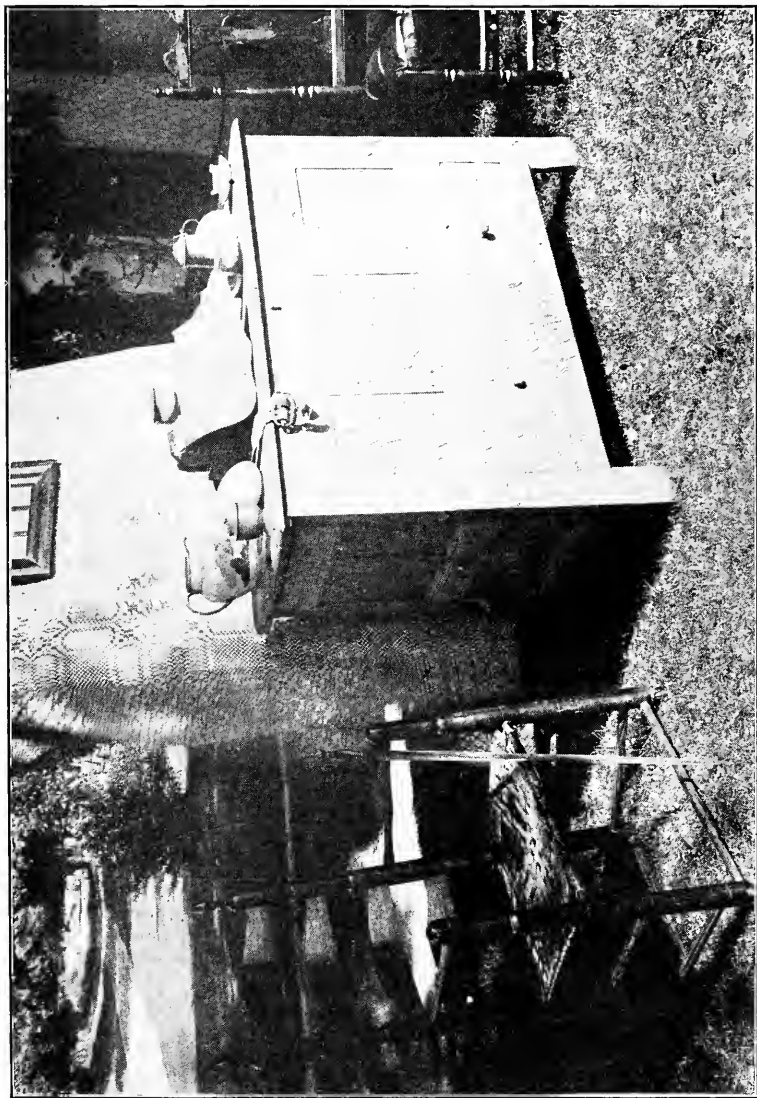
The great, carved, oaken chest, mentioned on another page as being an heir-loom in the family of Miles Talcott Merwin, bears the initials *I. P.*, and was brought from England by our ancestor, Cornet Joseph Parsons.

At the time of Mary Talcott's marriage to Miles Merwin, her uncle, Joseph Talcott, had been Governor of Connecticut for seventeen years, and all of the Talcott family had been prominent in the history of the New England Colonies, from their earliest settlement.

Lieut. Miles Merwin (1719-1786) and Mary Talcott, his wife, had eight children:

Miles,	born	May 1,	1744
Daniel,	"	May 30,	1746.
Job,	"	Feb. 16,	1749.
Noah,	"	Nov. 9,	1752.
Mary,	"	Nov. 24,	1755.
Rhoda,	"	Aug. 19,	1757.
Sarah,	"	June 7,	1760.
David,	"	Feb. 10,	1763.

Job Merwin, who inherited the homestead, died in 1824, leaving his widow with a very good property. The funeral expenses were such



CHEST OF CORNET JOSEPH PARSONS, 1636.

Sword and cartridge-box carried by Lieut. Miles Merwin in the French and Indian War.

Chair on the right, Phebe Camp Merwin's in 1794.

Chair on the left Miles Merwin's in 1750.



## HENRY G. NEWTON DEAD

Referee in Bankruptcy for New  
Haven County and Former Mem-  
ber of the Legislature.

New Haven, March 21.—Henry G. Newton, referee in bankruptcy for New Haven county, died of heart failure while in bed early today, at his home in Whalley avenue. He was at his office yesterday and was in good health.

Mr. Newton was one of the older members of the county bar and had served as referee in bankruptcy for several years. He was personal counsel for William Jennings Bryan, the executor, during the contest over the will of Philo Bennett, a merchant of New York City, whose residence was here, and who had left a sealed letter of instructions regarding the will, and under which Mr. Bryan was to receive a bequest.

Mr. Newton's term was to expire within a short time and attention had been directed to the candidacies of a number of lawyers for the office. Judge Thomas of the federal court, makes the appointment.

The funeral will be held from Plymouth church here at 11 a. m. Monday, and interment will be at Durham, preceded by service in the Congregational church there at 2 p. m.

### Served in the Legislature.

Mr. Newton, son of Gaylord and Nancy Merwin Newton, was a native of Durham, his natal day being June 5, 1843. He graduated from the Yale Law school in 1872 and represented Durham in the general assembly in 1885. He was declared elected for the next term by one vote; he claimed a miscount, contested his own election by serving as attorney for the contestant; he unseated himself, and his opponent was seated on the second day of the session. Mr. Newton claimed the record for a short term as a member. He was sent to the legislature from New Haven in 1895 and served on important committees and fathered many important bills. He also was on the state board of health for six years. He became referee in bankruptcy in 1898.

Mr. Newton married in 1885, Sarah Allen Baldwin of Cromwell, a graduate of the New York Medical school, who survives him, with a sister, residing in Cromwell.





as were usual in those days, and I copy them from the old Merwin account book:

To James Clark for digging grave .	\$1.25
To Charles Camp for making coffin .	2.75
To John Loveland for tolling the bell	.50
To Olive Norton for making shroud	.37½
	<hr/>
	\$4.87½

A shroud was always used for the dead, made of a soft white cloth manufactured for that purpose, and called "shrouding." No one was ever "laid out," to use the old-fashioned expression, in clothing worn by them in life.

The use of a hearse for the coffin and covered carriages for the family was unknown at that time. Coffins were placed upon a long wagon, and covered with a pall.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lieutenant Miles Merwin died December 12, 1786, sixty-seven years old. His wife, Mary Talcott, died January 18, 1793. Their graves are close by those of his father and mother, in the old cemetery in Durham.

The inscription on his grave-stone is :

"In memory of Lieut. Miles Merwin,  
who having served his generation according to the will of God through a

useful life, finished his course on earth  
Dec. 12, 1786, in the 66th year of his  
age."

"The sweet remembrance of the just,  
Like a green root, revives and bears,  
When dying nature sleeps in dust."

Miles, their eldest son, born May 1, 1744, the fifth generation in this country, married Mary Parmelee, November 4, 1767.

Her grandfather, Joel Parmelee, (1714-1788), was one of the first settlers of Durham, his name being on the petition for the town plat in 1699.

His grandfather, John Parmelee, was one of the first settlers in Guilford, coming there in the company of Rev. Henry Whitfield, who built the Old Stone House.

John Parmelee's home lot in Guilford in 1636 was the land on which the First Congregational Church and the adjacent buildings now stand.

"John Permeley", who came from England with Whitfield was one of the twenty-five who signed the Covenant on board the ship, June 1, 1639, when they had been on the ocean about ten days.

His father, Maurice Parmele, fled to Holland from the persecution in England about 1567.

His great-grandson, our great-great-grand-

father, Joel Parmelee, was a private in the War of the Revolution in 1776, in Captain Hand's Co. Colonel Talcott's Regiment. Later in the same year he was Corporal in Captain Steven's Co. with John Parmelee, probably his son, serving as drummer.

In 1779 his name appears as Sergeant enlisted for the War in the Sixth Connecticut Line Regiment under Captain Bezaleel Bristol.

The family home of Miles and Mary Parmelee Merwin was the house at the head of Brick Lane, known as the Miles Merwin house, which has always since been in the family, and is now owned by his great-grandson, Edward Payson Merwin.

It is supposed that this Miles, the fifth generation, built this house, and planted the noble line of maples in front of it.

Their eleven children were:

Jerusha,	born	August 27,	1768,
Eunice,	"	April 27,	1770,
Miles,	"	February 2,	1772,
Olive,	"	December 12,	1773,
Ruth,	"	June 25,	1776,
Nancy,	"	October 25,	1778,
Rhoda,	"	November 11,	1780,
Jesse,	"	December 23,	1782,
Mary,	"	May, 14,	1785,
Hannah,	"	August 31,	1787,
Noah,	"	November 9,	1789,

Those eight daughters followed the example of the worthy woman in the Book of Proverbs:

“She layeth her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle; she  
maketh linen garments and selleth  
them, and delivereth girdles unto the  
merchant.”

The great clumsy loom upon which every year they wove hundreds of yards of cloth, is still standing, a curiosity to the children of to-day.

The old account-book kept the record of varieties of weaving; Curtain-cloth, striped cloth, striped linen, tow-cloth, plain cloth, bed-tick, worsted, &c. The “setting-out” of eight brides must have involved a vast amount of spinning and weaving, not to mention the millions of stitches of hand sewing.

Most of the Merwin men lived to a good old age, but this Miles and Mary Parmelee, his wife, both died under fifty. His death was July 31, 1793, and hers June 6, 1795.

It was usual to carve an account of the virtues of our ancestors upon their headstones, and some of these epitaphs may be undeserved, but this great-grandmother of ours was worthy of the words above her:

“Prudence and grace adorned her mind:  
Her lips were peace, her carriage love:  
Patient and meek, to Heaven resigned,  
She died in faith of joys above.”



ELLEN MARIA NEWTON



HENRY GLEASON NEWTON

Seventh generation in the line of their father  
Eighth in the line of their mother



Miles had died two years earlier, and the inscription upon his grave is:

“When thou, my Jesus and my God  
Shall come in majesty divine,  
Raised from the dust in glory bright,  
With joy and beauty shall I shine.”

Their eldest son, Miles of the sixth generation, our grand-father, is well remembered by all of his grand-children. He was born February 2, 1772, married November 27, 1794, died July 31, 1859; 87 years old.

His first wife, the mother of all his children, was Phebe Camp, a descendant of Nicholas Camp, one of the first settlers of Milford, and also of Thomas Welles, who was Governor of Connecticut in the years 1655 and 1659, being Governor, Deputy Governor or Treasurer of the Colonial Government for many years until his death in office.

The nine children of Miles Merwin and Phebe Camp his wife, were:

Miles, born Thursday, September 7, 1795  
Alva, born Wednesday, October 12, 1796  
Phebe Camp, born Saturday, March 31, 1798  
Ruth, born Wednesday, December 11, 1799  
Mary Parmelee, born Thursday, Nov. 12, 1801  
Alva, born Saturday, October 29, 1803  
Rhoda, born Wednesday, September 11, 1805  
Noah, born Wednesday, June 24, 1807  
Nancy Mariah, born Thursday, March 29, 1810.

The Camp family were in comfortable circumstances, and Phebe's wedding dress, in 1794, was very handsome.

It was a heavy brocaded green silk damask, made with a short waist and long skirt.

When the third church was built, in 1835, these long straight breadths of her wedding dress were dyed red, and given by her to cover the cushion of the pulpit. It was burned with the building November 28, 1844. Some treasured bits of both red and green remain to us, and a few pieces of her furniture and silver. As was the custom in New England at that time, her silver spoons, still firm and good, were engraved with the initials of both husband and wife, M. P. M., the M for Miles and P for Phebe Merwin.

She had some property of her own, a part of which was a rather valuable tract of land on what was called West Mountain. This was sold after her death and the proceeds divided among her six living daughters.

Of her nine children, all except the first daughter, Alva, lived to a good age, all married, and all except Phebe, whose married life was less than two years, had children.

The mother died December 1, 1812, when little Nancy was only two and a half years old.

Miles, the eldest son, the seventh generation,



and Noah, the younger, settled on farms close by their father's and lived and died there. Miles enlisted in the War of 1812 serving under Commander Medad Hotchkiss and Commander John Butler.

He was stationed at New London, but did not serve out of the State.

The daughters married and settled, some nearer, some farther from the old home, but none so far away that they did not occasionally return for the Thanksgiving gatherings.

Each of the six daughters had a bountiful "setting-out" of linen and wool, raised on the farm, spun on the great wheel and little wheel, and woven on the loom in the red painted building which they called "the shop" and which stood a few feet east of the house.

There were windows on every side of the shop, for it was all in one room, and it was sunny and warm and bright on cold winter days when the six sisters were at work there together, for no one of the six married until the youngest was fourteen years old.

Each could spin and weave her own linen, although for preparing the table linen, the intricate and mysterious patterns of "huck-a-buck and bird's eye" and "M's and N's," they required the skill of a specialist from another family.

Every separate article was marked in blue linen cross-stitch with the initials of its owner, and laid away in her particular chest to wait for the marriage which was sure to come.

Each daughter knit a pillow case full of stockings, of linen thread, of woollen yarn, and some of cotton also, every one marked carefully with the blue initials, and in some cases they lasted until earthly apparel was no longer needed.

They had nice dresses for best, of silk, and of soft French chintz, and as the wearing of a cap was then a badge and token of the married state, as a wedding ring was among Episcopalians, and is now among even orthodox Congregationalists, each for her marriage provided a handsome cap of real lace, and wore it thereafter on all ceremonious occasions. The quaint, old family daguerreotypes which we prize so highly, show us the fashion of them, but the vandal hands of their children long ago destroyed the dear old caps, to obtain the lace for other uses.

With all the work that was done in the red shop, the sisters found time for reading and study and embroidery on lace and muslin, of which some fine specimens have been inherited by their children.

The youngest one, Nancy Maria, my mother, was remarkable for the number of verses she could repeat in the Sunday-school.



PHEBE CAMP WHITE  
 RUTH LEE      MARY PARMELEE NOBLE  
 ALVA BALDWIN  
 NANCY MARIA NEWTON      RHODA SAGE  
 Daughters of Miles Merwin (1772-1859)



This Sunday School was first organized in, or a little before, the year 1818, when Nancy was eight years old, and her elder sister, Phebe, was chosen the first female Superintendent.

The lessons were simply committing to memory Bible verses, hymns, and answers in the Assembly's Shorter Catechism.

Nancy laid her Bible open before her on the bench of her spinning-wheel, and in the ceaseless stepping to and fro as she drew out and twisted the thread, she learned verse after verse and chapter after chapter, until she could repeat every word of the Book of Isaiah, as well as many other parts of the Bible.

In the early days of this Sabbath-School, it was continued through the summer, then closed for the winter in October, with a public meeting, a long, solemn address, usually by one of the deacons, written, and read from the manuscript, and a report of the state of the school, and the number of verses that had been recited in the six months.

In October, 1824, the report was, "22,192 verses of scripture, 2335 answers of catechism, 6,572 verses of hymns, making a total of 31,099, and this exclusive of the adult classes."

Nancy, at this time, was the only one of the sisters young enough to be considered a child.

Most of them married young, quite as soon as

the linen chests were filled; and at the time of marriage, the father added a gift of a sum of money, so that each daughter furnished the house which her husband provided.

Rose blankets and imported counterpanes were purchased for best, but for ordinary use, the home-made linen and wool lasted for many years.

These six sisters, although sometimes separated after marriage in different towns and states, always cherished the strongest affection for each other to the end of life.

A few only of their many affectionate letters to each other have been preserved. There is one written by Phebe to Nancy after the death and burial of her much loved husband, Seymour White. They had lived together only a year and a half, in the house now owned and occupied by George Francis. After his death, she returned to her father's house, remaining there until she received a most urgent call to fill the position of matron to the American Asylum for the Deaf in Hartford.

How acceptably and lovingly she performed the duties of that office, can best be told by an extract from an article published in the year 1885 by one who had been many years before under her care.

"In the heart of every graduate of the Asylum

in the forty years in which Mrs. Phebe C. White filled the post of matron, she occupied a warm corner.

“She was a second mother to all of them—some of them knew no other—and around her name clusters many a tender memory of their younger days, when they were far from home. She was emphatically a woman among a thousand; yea, among ten thousand.

“I last saw her a few years ago, in Central New York, where she was visiting, and it was a real pleasure to look upon her beaming, motherly face, and clasp her honest hand after years of absence.

“She long ago vacated the office she had so truly filled, and only recently passed, at a ripe old age, to the world beyond.”

A strong family feeling continued through the next, the present generation. There were thirty-five cousins, though not all living at one time. Twenty-eight of them lived to manhood and womanhood, and as every family finally settled within twenty miles of the ancestral home in Durham, visits were often exchanged.

A few weeks before grandfather's death, in the summer of 1859, the family assembled at the old home, and thirteen great-grand children then living, sat together around one table.

He walked into the room, and looking upon

them with deep emotion said, "This is a most interesting sight; be good children all of you, live in peace, and prepare to meet me in Heaven."

There were at this time, in 1859, fifteen sons and daughters, counting also their wives and husbands, thirty-two grand children and thirteen great-grand children.

There were four generations of Miles Merwins then living in Durham in a radius of half a mile.

They were distinguished as Miles Senior, Miles Junior, Miles Talcott, and Miles Tyler Merwin, the last named being a child of ten years, one of the great-grand children above mentioned.

Of the twenty-eight cousins who were living at the same time, too many died in their youth, Frances, Marietta, Elizabeth and Henry Sage following each other in quick succession. Lyman Baldwin, Charlotte Ellen Noble, a young girl, always bright and cheerful, helpful to her friends, sparing no pains or trouble to make others happy, Charles Gilbert Lee, wasting his young life in Andersonville prison, Ellen Maria Newton, useful everywhere, organist in the choir, a teacher in Sunday School, a great favorite with all her friends, and filling the place of a mother in her own home, Henry Merwin Baldwin, a soldier in the Civil War, severely



wounded in the battle of Olustee, Florida, Caroline and Phebe, daughters of Miles Merwin, Mary Noble Arnold; "all these died in faith" many years ago.

Their numbers are now rapidly diminishing. The earliest born and the latest born passed away in 1904, Miles Talcott Merwin at the age of eighty-two and Charles Baldwin Merwin, October 31, at fifty-six.

Charles Baldwin Merwin had long been in failing health, and made his will a few years ago, remembering all his near relatives, and providing that after their decease, a large part of the property he had accumulated should benefit the church and schools in his native town of Durham.

He also bequeathed, besides the gifts to church and Sunday School and High School, three thousand dollars for establishing and replenishing a library in connection with the school, and a fund the income of which was to be expended in the care of the cemeteries of Durham.

Miles Talcott Merwin was the first of the line to be distinguished by a middle name, for the reason that in his early life, the three generations of Miles Merwins were still living and all residents of Durham. He was still strong and courageous at the age of eighty. Though bent with rheumatism, and often suffering from

other disabilities, he continued managing his large farm himself, driving in storms of winter and heat of summer ten miles to market his produce, and seemed expecting to continue doing the same for years to come until the accident of a fall in the barn caused the illness which resulted in his death after two weeks of suffering, August 29, 1904.

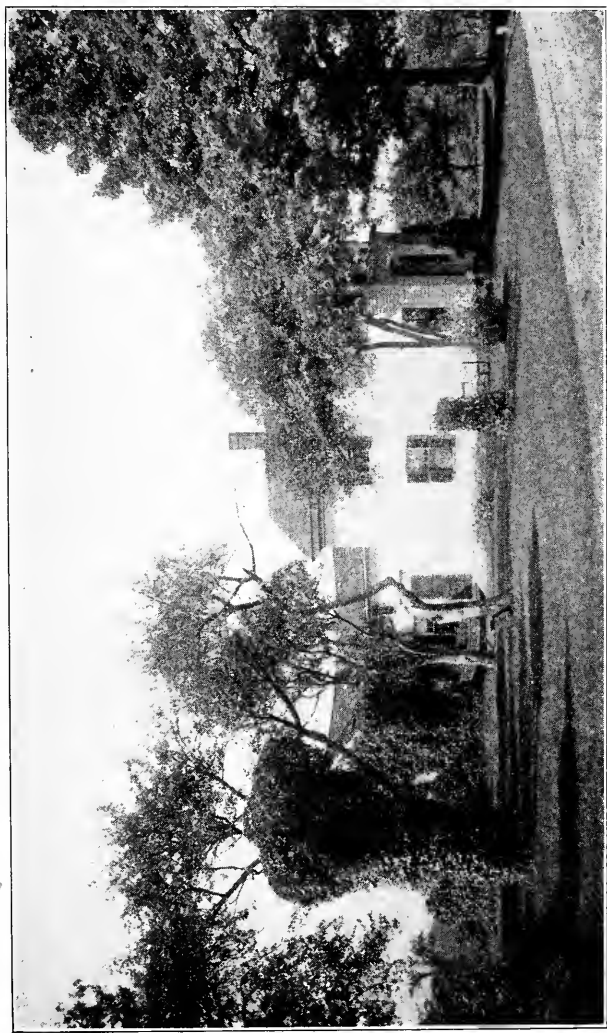
He had been useful through all his long life in the affairs of town, of church and of Sunday School, his place there never being vacant except by reason of illness.

For the last twenty years of his life he had been annually elected President of the Sunday School Association, taking charge of all its business meetings.

He was much interested in the work of the Historical Society, which was formed in Durham at the Bi-Centennial of the town in 1899, and had prepared some interesting papers for the meetings.

He was the last "tything-man" elected by the First Church of Durham, and might be said to have died in office, although his election was many years ago.

A tything-man was an officer elected annually in the days of our grandfathers to preserve order in the meeting-house during services, as well as to make complaint of any disorderly conduct or travel on the Sabbath.



HOME OF MILES TALCOTT MERWIN, DURHAM, CONN.



Miles Talcott Merwin felt a great interest in the history of the family.

All the descendants of our grandfather were invited to a re-union at his house in August, 1903, the plans having been made and invitations written and sent by Henry G. Newton and wife of New Haven.

The day appointed proved to be very stormy, but thirty-seven gathered there.

They had a business meeting, forming the Merwin Association, electing Miles Talcott Merwin President, Mary E. Van Size, Vice-President, and Caroline Gaylord Newton, Secretary.

Speeches were made by those accepting these offices, a historical paper was read by the Secretary, and many reminiscences were given by the elder ones among the cousins.

A flash-light photograph was taken of the group, but because of the rain, some had already left the circle.

Plans were laid for yearly meetings of the Association, but illness and death have prevented their meeting again.

Mrs. Mary E. Van Size, the eldest of the remaining cousins, then in her eighty-second year, with mind and memory and bodily health still unimpaired, was at that time unanimously elected Vice-President of the Merwin Association, and in response made an appropriate

speech, telling some stories of her childhood days when her home was near grandfather's house.

She spoke of the Thanksgiving Days when all the descendants came together without exception; of the long table in the East room, the striped hempen and woolen carpet which covered the floor; the beautiful pink china, and the cut glass brought out from the glass fronted buffet which is still in the corner of the west parlor.

This pink china was purchased by the step-mother, Miles' second wife, Abigail Seward.

Mrs. Van Size remembered the wonderful journey that she made with her father and mother and little brother, Lyman, in the year 1834.

They put beds, bedding and provisions into a long wagon, drawn by two horses, and left Durham on a Friday morning, stopping for a lodging on the way wherever the darkness happened to find them; resting over the Sabbath after two days' journey, according to the commandment, and on Monday proceeding again on their way.

They saw many strange things, among others, that astonishing sight, the new railroad and train running from Albany to Schenectady. They stayed a short time with relatives in

Albany, then drove on, reaching their journey's end at Sherburne, New York.

The family afterwards returned to Connecticut, and settled in Cromwell.

Others among the cousins added to the interest of the re-union by their recollections of the old days.

Henry S. Merwin, Mrs. Wealthy Ives, wife of John Ives, of Meriden, Thomas Noble, William H. Lee, Henry G. Newton and others gave interesting reminiscences.

Letters were read from absent ones, and a memorial book was prepared in which all present registered their names.

Those present were:

Miles Talcott Merwin,  
Henry Sage Merwin,  
Lucy Stowe Merwin,  
George Barber Merwin,  
Ella Elizabeth Merwin,  
Emily Foote Merwin,  
Agnes Dickerman Merwin,  
Asaph Merriam Merwin,  
Harry M. Merwin,  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Van Size,  
Thomas Noble,  
Mrs. Thomas Noble,  
(Elizabeth Baldwin Noble,)  
Miss Sarah Ellen Noble,  
Thomas Henry Noble,  
John Ives,  
Mrs. John Ives, (Wealthy Merwin Ives),

Mrs. James P. Platt, (Harriett Ives Platt),  
Miss Majorie Platt,  
William Henry Lee,  
Mrs. William H. Lee, (Mary Griswold Lee),  
Charles Sherman Lee,  
William Randall Lee,  
Mrs. Wm. Randall Lee, (Lucy Foote Lee),  
Albert Clifford Lee,  
Miss Hotchkiss (later Mrs. A. C. Lee),  
Earle Baldwin,  
Mrs. Earle Baldwin, (Ruth Lee Baldwin),  
Dorthy Baldwin,  
Miss Martha Wetmore,  
Leland Howard Ives,  
Henry Huntington Newton,  
Mrs. H. H. Newton, (Caroline Gaylord  
Newton),  
Henry Gleason Newton,  
Mrs. H. G. Newton, (Sarah Baldwin Newton)  
Miss Caroline Newton Stevens.

Letters were read from:

Mrs. N. E. Stark, (Mary Lee Stark,  
Mrs. Ellen M. Lee Bristol and family,  
General Edward Merwin Lee,  
Miles Tyler Merwin,  
Edward Payson Merwin,  
Charles Baldwin Merwin,

The exercises closed with the singing of Auld  
Lang Syne, and Praise God from Whom All  
Blessings Flow.



FIRST GENERATION.

Miles Merwin,<sup>1</sup> born about 1623, died April 23, 1697.

He married Elizabeth Baldwin, widow of Theophilus Canfield.

Their children were:

SECOND GENERATION.

Elizabeth,  
John, born 1650,  
Abigail, born 1652,  
Thomas, born 1654,  
Samuel, born August 21, 1656,  
Miles<sup>2</sup>, born December 14, 1658,  
Daniel, born, June 30, 1661.

The mother died July 10, 1664.

Miles married again Sarah Platt, widow of Thomas Beach.

Their children were:

Martha and Maria, born January 23 1666.

Hannah, born November 15, 1667.

Deborah and Daniel, born April 24, 1670.

The mother died April 24, 1670.

Miles married again Sarah, widow of Daniel Scofield, by whom he had no children.

Miles Merwin<sup>2</sup>, born December 14, 1658,  
died \* \* \*

He married Hannah Wilmot, widow of Samuel Miles, September 26, 1681.

Their children were:

THIRD GENERATION.

Elizabeth<sup>3</sup>, born January 10, 1683,

Miles<sup>3</sup>,

Daniel<sup>3</sup>, 1688.

Daniel Merwin, born 1688, died April 11, 1766, married Sarah Botchford November 30, 1710.

Their children were:

FOURTH GENERATION.

Ann, born November 30, 1712,

Daniel, born September 15, 1714,

Ann, born March 24, 1715-16,

Sarah, born June 10, 1718,

<sup>4</sup>Miles, born November 29, 1719,

D. Miles, born March 27, 1721,

Elizabeth, born February 14, 1722-23.

Lieutenant <sup>4</sup>Miles Merwin, born November 29, 1719, married Mary Talcott June 30, 1743, and died December 12, 1786.

Their children were:

FIFTH GENERATION.

<sup>5</sup>Miles, born May 1, 1744,

Daniel, born May 30, 1746,

Job, born February 16, 1749,

Noah, born November 9, 1752,

Mary, born May 24, 1755,

Rhoda, born August 19, 1757,

Sarah, born June 7, 1760,

David, born June 7, 1760,

David, born February 10, 1763.

Miles Merwin<sup>5</sup>, born May 1, 1744, died July 31, 1793. He married Mary Parmelee November 4, 1767.

Their children were:

#### SIXTH GENERATION.

Jerusha,	born	August 27, 1768.
Eunice,	"	April 27, 1770.
Miles,	"	February 2, 1772.
Olive,	"	December 12, 1773.
Ruth,	"	June 25, 1776.
Nancy,	"	October 25, 1778.
Rhoda,	"	November 11, 1780.
Jesse,	"	December 23, 1782.
Mary,	"	May 14, 1785.
Hannah,	"	August 31, 1787.
Noah,	"	November 9, 1789.

Miles Merwin<sup>6</sup>, born February 2, 1772, died July 31, 1859. He married November 27, 1794, Phebe Camp.

Their children were: (recorded in the handwriting of our grandfather in the Family Bible):

#### SEVENTH GENERATION.

Miles<sup>7</sup>, born September 7, 1795, Thursday,  
Alva, born October 12, 1796, Wednesday,  
Phebe Camp, born March 31, 1798, Saturday,  
Ruth, born December 11, 1799, Wednesday,  
Mary Parmelee, born November 12, 1801, Thursday,  
Alva, born October 29, 1803, Saturday,  
Rhoda, born September 11, 1805, Wednesday,  
Noah, born June 24, 1807, Wednesday,  
Nancy Mariah, born March 29, 1810, Thursday.

OUR ANCESTOR'S WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE  
MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

Reference has been made to the Memorial Bridge in Milford.

Many of the old New England families are descendants of those whose names are upon that bridge.

I count among my ancestors fourteen of those names, seven in the Merwin line, and seven in the Newton line; in some cases, by the inter-marriage of families, having the same by both father and mother.

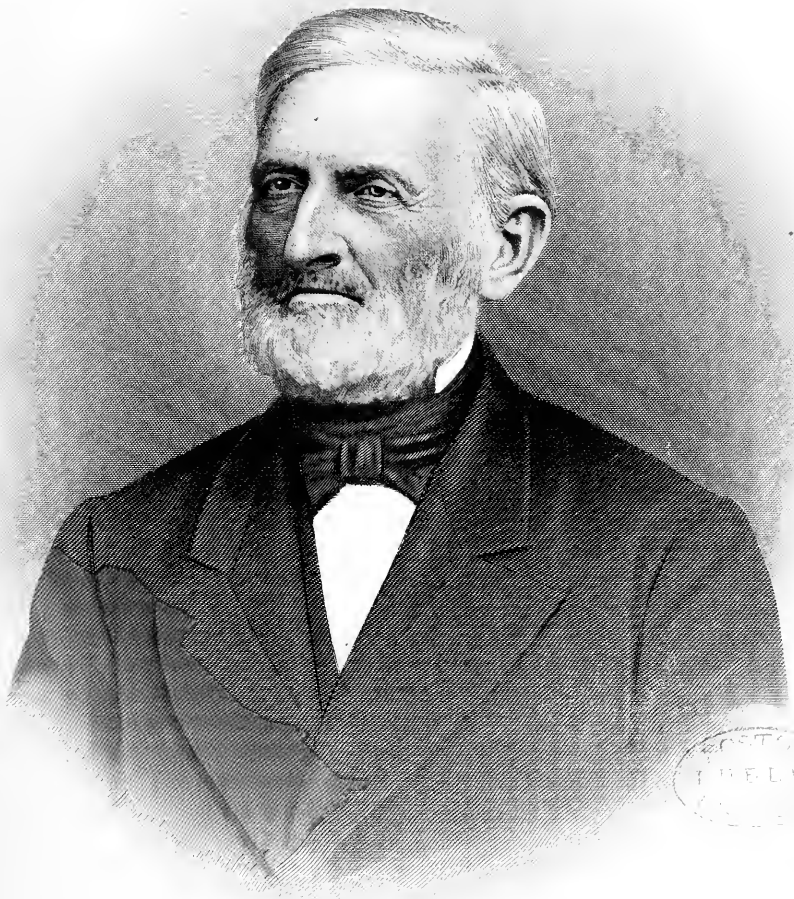
I take these numbers as corresponding to those in *Ye Story of ye Memorial, as told by Nathan C. Pond.*

No. 9. *Thomas Buckingham,*  
Obit 1657,  
*Hannah, his wife.*

Their daughter Hannah married Thomas Welch; their daughter Sarah married Captain Samuel Newton, son of Rev. Roger Newton; their son, Abner Newton, my great-great-grandfather, married Mary Burwell, and settled in Durham; their son Burnell married Eunice Johnson; their son Abner married Abigail Fairchild; their son Gaylord married Nancy Merwin, my mother.

No. 10. *Deacon Richard Platt,*  
Obit 1684,  
*Mary, his wife.*

Their daughter, Sarah Platt, married Miles Merwin; their daughter Deborah married Sam-



*Gaylord Newton*



uel Burwell; their daughter, Mary Burwell, married Abner Newton, as above.

No. 13. *John Burwell*,  
Obit 1649,  
*Alice, his wife.*

These are the father and mother of the Samuel Burwell in the previous paragraph.

No. 15 *Joseph Baldwin*.  
Obit 1690.

*Hannah, his wife.*

Their son Johnathan married Thankful Strong; their son, Ezra Strong, married Ruth Curtis; their daughter, Phebe Curtis, married Elah Camp; their daughter, Phebe Camp, married Miles Merwin, my grandfather.

No. 16. *Timothy Baldwin*,  
Obit 1664.

*Mary, his wife.*

Their daughter, Hannah Baldwin, married Elnathan Botsford; their daughter Sarah, married Daniel Merwin, and settled in Durham.

No. 19. *Miles Merwin*.

Obit 1697,  
*Sarah, his wife.*

All of the name in Milford and Durham descend from him, and his tombstone is the only one known to be that of an early settler, in the Milford cemetery. It has been engraved and published in the book "Old Tomb-stones of Milford." (See illustration on a previous page.)

His first wife was Elizabeth Baldwin, the second Sarah Platt. I am a descendant of both wives, on my mother's side from Miles, the son of Elizabeth, and on my father's side from Deborah, daughter of Sarah Platt, and Miles Merwin; the 7th generation by my father, and 8th by my mother.

No. 20. *Thomas Welch,*  
Obit 1681,  
*Hannah, his wife.*

Their daughter, Sarah, married Captain Samuel Newton; their son, Abner Newton, married Mary Burwell, as above.

No. 22. *Nicholas Camp,*  
*Sarah, his wife.*

Their son, Joseph Camp, married Hannah Rogers, daughter of Eleazer Rogers and Elizabeth Knowles; their son Nathan married Rhoda Parsons, daughter of Samuel Parsons, and grand-daughter of Cornet Joseph Parsons; their daughter Rhoda married Joel Parmelee; their daughter Mary married Miles Merwin, my great-grandfather.

Also a son of Nathan Camp and Rhoda Parsons, Elah Camp, married Phebe Baldwin; their daughter, Phebe Camp, married Miles Merwin, my grandfather.



No. 23. *John Stream*

Obit 1685

*Martha Beard, his wife.*

Sarah Beard, daughter of Martha Beard by her first husband, was the wife of Nicholas Camp, number 22.

No. 24. *Thomas Ford*

*Elizabeth, his wife.*

Their daughter, Abigail Ford, married Elder John Strong; their daughter Thankful married Johnathan Baldwin, the son of Joseph Baldwin, as before mentioned.

No. 25. *Sarg't. Thomas Campfield*

Obit 1689

*Phebe Crane, his wife.*

Their son, Thomas Campfield, born October 14, 1654, married Rebecca Adkinson; their daughter, Phebe Campfield, married John Camp; their daughter Phebe married Samuel Fairchild; their son, Elisha Fairchild, married Abigail Crowell; their daughter Abigail Fairchild married Abner Newton, my grandfather.

No. 26. *Henry Botsford,*  
Obit 1686,  
*Elizabeth, his wife.*

They had five daughters, but only one son, Elnathan, born in Milford in 1641. Elnathan Botsford married Hannah Baldwin; their daughter Sarah married Daniel Merwin and settled in Durham.

No. 28. *Joseph Peck,*  
Obit 1701,  
*Alice, his wife.*

This Alice, before her marriage to Peck, was the widow of John Burwell, grandmother of Mary Burwell, wife of Abner Newton.

No. 29. *John Smith,*  
Obit 1684  
*Grace, his wife.*

This Grace Smith was Grace Hawley, daughter of Joseph Hawley, the ancestor of Governor and Senator Joseph Hawley.

Their daughter, Mehitabel Smith, married Edward Camp; their son, Joseph Camp, married Phebe Canfield; their daughter, Phebe Camp, married Samuel Fairchild; his son Elisha Fairchild, married Abigail Crowell; their daughter Abigail married Abner Newton, my grandfather.

Besides these whose names are on the bridge, there are many others whom we remember as our historic ancestors, those who made the New England wilderness to blossom as the rose, preparing homes and churches and schools and colleges for us, their children.

Among the ancestors of the present Merwin family are: John Birdsey, Matthew Mitchell, Robert Coe, Joseph Hawley, Timothy, Joseph and Richard Baldwin, Joseph Andrews, Nicholas Camp, Joseph Judson, John Curtis, Henry Woodward, Captain John Taylor, Thomas Bliss, John Rogers, Thomas Ford, Cornet Joseph Parsons, Alexander Knowles, John Kirby, John Parmelee of Guilford, Lieutenant Colonel John Talcott of Hartford, Thomas Welles, for many years Governor, Deputy Governor and Treasurer of Connecticut, and others whose names are well known and honored.

*Letter of John Coe, son of Robert Coe, to Mary Hawley Coe, his wife.*

We are their descendants in the Sixth Generation.

“Westfield, August 23d, 1708.

My Dear Wife:—

This comes to bring my hearty love and affection to you, and to tell you of my earnest desire to embrace you in the arms of love hoping they may find you and ours in health.

I have been very well ever since I left you for which I praise God. The post from Albany last week brings news that the enemy disagree and french indians are turned back, the scouts from Deerfield have not yet discovered the army we look for a post from Albany to-morrow after which we are in great hopes of being drawn off or the greater part of us.

I am just now a going to Northampton to wait on our governor which makes me in so much haste. So I remain till death your loving husband,

John Coe.

Our soldiers here are all well.”

The address is to “Mary Coe, Living at Stratford.”

This letter was written by my great-great-great-great-grandfather, at this time a man fifty

years old, to his wife, while he was serving against the French and Indians. Deerfield had been destroyed for the second time four years previously, and the difficulty in this war was to discover from what direction the enemy would next appear.

Bancroft says "they stealthily approached towns even in the heart of Massachusetts."

Six days after this letter was written, August 29th, the French and Indians appeared suddenly at Haverhill, and massacred the inhabitants, beating the minister, Benjamin Rolfe, to death; braining his wife with a tomahawk; dashing the head of his babe against a stone, and "there were a multitude of the slain."

Thomas Welles 1598—Jan. 14, 1660.

Thomas Welles, born in 1598 was descended from an old family of the English nobility. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth Hunt, who died in 1640, afterwards to Elizabeth (Deming) Foote. We are descended from the first wife, Elizabeth Hunt. With his wife, he left Roth-nell, Northamptonshire, Eng., and came to America with Lord Say-and-Sele early in 1636.

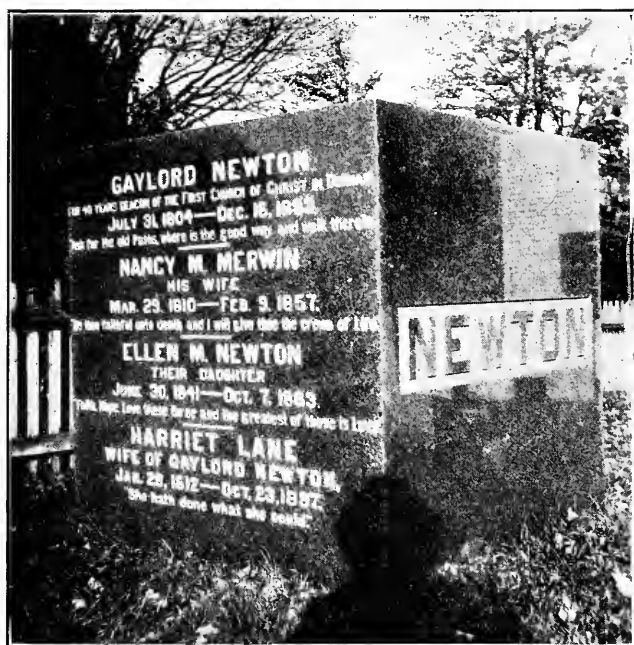
They settled at Saybrook, but soon removed to Hartford, where he always held a prominent place in public affairs. He was chosen a magistrate in 1637, and for the remaining twenty-two

years of his life, continued in some important office.

He was the fourth Governor, but had been Deputy, or Lieutenant Governor, Moderator of the General Court and Commissioner under the earliest two, Haynes and Hopkins. He was Governor two years, Deputy Governor four years, Secretary of State seven years, and Treasurer twelve years.

All these services were without pay from the State. No Governor received a salary until 1677 when the General Court granted thirty pounds annually, "because of many expenses and charges."

He died on Sunday, January 14, 1660, in Wethersfield, and was probably buried there, his body being afterwards removed to the Center church Cemetery in Hartford, the exact place of interment being unknown.







The following is a copy of the first deed ever given of the Merwin land in Durham; the original deed of 1687 with the seals and signatures being still in the possession of the family of Miles Talcott Merwin.

The land was given to Major Nash by the General Court for his services in the Indian Wars.

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know ye yt Wee Sarah Nash, Philip Payne & Mary my wife & Hannah Ball widd. the son-in-law natt & lawfull daughters & Executors of ye last will and testant of ye hono'ed father; Major John Nash, late of Newhaven deceased, for and in consideration of ye sum of ffifty pounds in Current Country pay according to Inventory apprised and payable by us ye sd Executors according to agreement wth & unto Major Aaron Cook of Northampton in ye Massachusetts Colony in right of Elizabeth his wife late deceased, and one of ye daughters of ye sd Maj'r John Nash and one of ye executors & legatees named in his said last will and testant, and for and towards ye paym't of ye sd sum of ffifty as a part of sd paym't have demised granted & made over, & by these presents I do demise grant                      make over and confirm for us,

each and every of us, the Heirs Executors & Assigns for ever unto ye sd Aaron Cook One tract or parcell of land, given and granted by ye Gen'll Court at Hartford in ye Colony of Connecticut by their act bearing date Octobr 7th, 1674 as in & by ye same may & doth appear, & by their order lay'd out to ye sd Maj'r Nash by John Moss & John Bracket, Surveyors appointed thereabouts

lying & being at a place called Cogonshake neere Wallingford Containing by estimation three hundred acres be it more or less, bounded by a white oak at ye north east Corner marked I. N. I. M. I. B., from thence southward to a Beech tree marked as above, from thence westward to a grt Chestnut tree marked in like manner from thence due west to Wallingford East bounds; from thence to a small white oak standing in Middletown south ffrom where Wallingford bound stays. This oak is marked I. N. wh ffarme or tract of land is appraised in Inventory of ye sd Maj'r's Estate at thirty pounds.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the sd ffarme or tract of land (soo valewed & appraised as aforesd) with ye woods, ways, waters, water Courses, Swamps, Uplands, meadows & apurtenances with all ye libertys, privaledges, proffits & advantages thereunto belonging to him ye sd

Maj'r Aaron Cook his Heirs Executrs Administrators or Assignees forever in fee simple yielding or paying to his Majestie and his Successors only ye 5th part of gold & Silver oar as by Charter is provided without any claims, demands, oposition, trouble or molestation to him, or them, or any of them, by us the sd Sarah Nash, Philip & Mary Paine & Hannah Ball, or of or from the Heirs Executor or Administrators or of any of us or them, or of, from, or by any other person or persons, claiming or to claime by from or under us or any of us, for, and or by other means or movement by any meanes directly or indirectly whatsoever.

In Witness Whereof we have hereunto set hands & seales this 27th day of October, 1687.

Philip Payne (seal), Sarah nash (seal)  
 Mary payne (seal),  
 hannah Bal (seal).

Sealed and delivered in  
 presence of us.

Thomas tallmadge,  
 Jno. Tallmadge.

This writing was acknowledged  
 by the subscribers therein named  
 to be their voluntary Act & deed  
 ye day & yeare as above.

Before me Wm. Jones.

June ye 3d, 1708, this Instrument was Recorded in ye Records for ye Town of Durham, folio 6.

pr James Wadsworth T. Clerk.

On the outside is written "a deed of cocking-cheg. Major Nash's Heirs Deed to Major Cook, 1687."

An extract from a deed of a part of the Nash land to Daniel Merwin in 1724, some of which is still in the possession of the Merwin family.

“Know all men that I, Aaron Cook of Hartford in the County of Hartford, in the Colony of Connecticut, for the sum of Two hundred pounds paid by Daniel Merwin of Durham in the County of New Haven \* \* \* \*  
have sold unto the said Daniel Merwin a certain piece or Parcel of land being a Part of the Farm called Nashis Farm in Sd Durham containing one hundred acres together with all the Remainder of Sd Farm only excepting two hundred acres at the eastwardly end provided there be three hundred acres or more

\* \* \* \* \*

“In witness whereof I have signed sealed and delivered this Testament this twenty 2d Day of Octobr in the eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George of Great Britian, King &c. Anno Domini 1724.

Aaron Cooke Senr.

This has not the clause of the older deed, one-fifth of all gold or silver ore to his Majestie.

Milford May 12th, 1697.

An Inventory of ye Estate of Miles Murwin  
Senr of Milford, dec'd.

	£	s	d
Wearing Aparell £30, 0s, 6d, fulled			
linssy woolsy 5 . . . . .	35	00	06
two bedsteads and bed furniture £19,			
4s, Cubords, babbes, Cheses and a			
box, £4, 11s, . . . . .	23	15	00
table linen and pillow beer 16, 13, 04			
Carpet and sheets 23, 15, . . . .	40	05	06
A cubbord form, Cushions, thread			
and hose yarn . . . . .	02	05	06
Glass bottles woollen and linnen yarn			
and cards, . . . . .	08	16	05
Jeny baskets Juggs wheeles flax and			
a box iron, . . . . .	05	1+	05
Cash and a Silver Cup 7, 3, 6d, Gim			
blet buttons and Knives, 18s 4d, .	08	02	10
A pair of mony scales and pins and a			
chest, sheares needles Iron tooles,	08	02	10
Needles silk Rasors Socks A pc broad			
cloth, paper, combs, . . . . .	03	08	03
Buckles timber nails, a wheat Riddle			
2, 18, hackling, . . . . .	05	19	06
Iron tooles Grater spoon and nails 2,			
10, 6, pipes a box and buttons			
powder butchers ax, 2, 0, 8, . . .	04	19	02
Scotch cloth linnen 6, 8, Iron sheets			
old guns pistolls and sword £11, 1s,			
9d, . . . . .	17	19	09
A new fether bed Curtens blankets,			
Coverlids, . . . . .	17	04	00
Screws pens hooks locks forks a chest			
a hat and a box, . . . . .	07	03	06

hops Ropes and hooks and lines a bed sheet and furniture, . . . . .	09 11 06
A hammock tallow and flax Corne Oates, . . . . .	30 16 09
Sheets tow cloth Carry boxes, barells and bushels, . . . . .	13 05 00
A table chairs, bras and peuter and a 110 acres of land, . . . . .	59 07 00
pewter and spoones, tinware, bras mortar, earthen ware and measures, . . . . .	05 10 06
wooden ware Sadle Chafin dish iron pestle and mortar, . . . . .	12 10 06
bags Corne, wheat and meal pork and beefe, tramells tongs, . . . . .	11 10 06
Cider and old cask £5, 15s, tobacco Oyle pack sadle hors halter, . . . . .	14 16 00
Oxen Cows a bull and young cattle 26, 13, one tray China a hetchell and books, . . . . .	32 06 03
24 Bushel malt and a mare 4, 14, land bought of Nathll Farran £10, . . . . .	14 14 00
pewter and spoones, Earthenware wooden ware and iron ware iron and a Canoe £1, 14s, 9d, . . . . .	51 14 09
Thomas Murwin's debts by bill £2, . . . . .	00 15 00
One butternut sheet an old one, . . . . .	

---

453 11 11

The In'y taken by us

John Smith  
Jonathan Baldwin } Sworn  
Timothy Baldwin }

Mrs. Sarah Merwin ye widow Sworn  
to ye of ye estate all before ye  
Gods word.

Extracts from different Pages of the old Account Book:

*Miles Merwin*

His Book

Bought January ye 11th,

A. D., 1796, price 4 shillings, 6 pence.

		£	s	d
1795	to a school rate to Abram Camp	0	12	3
	to a school rate to Mr Coe & Dennis Camp	0	9	8
	to a barrel of cider	0	6	6
1796	to weaving 19½ yds of cloth at 8d. per yd	0	13	0
	to weaving 20½ yds of cloth at 7d. per yd	0	12	0
	to 4½ pounds of mutton @ 4½	0	1	¼
	to Olive and Ruth at tayloring	0	6	2
1797	to one day Braking flax	0	3	6
	to a dozen of ale wives	0	0	9
	to a ladder	0	1	1½
	to fanning rye and flax seed	0	2	0
1798	to a quart of brandy	0	1	6
1799	to weaving 17¼ yds brown tow cloth @ 7d. pr			
	yd.	0	10	1
	to weaving 9½ yds table linen at 8d. per yd	0	6	4
	to weaving 6 yds check linen at 8d. per yd	0	4	0
	to weaving 5 handkerchiefs	0	5	6
	to weaving 79 yds cloth at 7d. per yd	2	6	1
	to a callico gown	0	12	0
1800	to weaving 41 yds at 7d. per yd	1	3	11
	to weaving 13½ yds striped linen at 8d. per yd	0	9	0
1822	Oct. to two hands ½ day moving old school-house and carting boards & lumber from Middletown, . . . . .			\$00 50





## ERRATA.

Page 62. For Joel Parmelee (1714-1788) read Joel Parmelee (1679-1748).

Page 28. In the list of Newton descendants of Miles Merwin of the seventh generation now living in Durham, Jonathan Edward Newton was omitted.

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The small figures prefixed to some names indicate the generation in the line of descent from the emigrant ancestor.

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HOUSE OF MILES MERWIN (1772-1859) DURHAM, CONN.  
Now owned by his grandson, Edward P. Merwin.

[Nobles, Elizabeth Madelon (Baldwin)  
Beelden]

# MILES MERWIN

1772—1859.

HIS

ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS

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PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF

MRS. PHEBE CAMP MERWIN WHITE

[Durham, Conn.]

1908.



## PREFACE.

Phebe C. White left her property to the grandchildren of her father. She had always taken a great deal of interest in them. Several of these grandchildren agreed to contribute to the publishing of a pamphlet giving the names of all the descendants of her father, Miles Merwin. The obtaining of necessary data involved a large amount of correspondence, and this share of the work was done principally by Elizabeth Maddock Noble and Sarah Baldwin Newton. It was published in 1903 in a History of Middlesex County, and the publishers furnished pages of the sketch suitable for binding.

Caroline Gaylord (Mrs. Henry Huntington) Newton aided in procuring the pictures and having them printed. She also made a more extensive examination of the line from the original Miles Merwin, who came from England, and that work is annexed to this.

In the course of her investigation, she found that page 5, being the first page of this book, was partly incorrect. Miles Merwin came first to Windsor and not to Milford. He did not have fifteen children, but twelve; and these by two mothers, although he was married three times. He was born about 1623 and died at the age of seventy-four.

The special design of this publication is to

effectuate the wishes of Phebe C. White, that the descendants of her father might know and be interested in one another; that they might remember the precepts and example of their forefathers and foremothers, and be good and worthy citizens, faithful in society and in the church.

It is intended to send a copy of this work to each descendant of her father, and I exhort them, like their predecessors, to live honestly, speak the truth, pay their debts and taxes, be faithful to the church, and be true sons and daughters of New England.

Henry G. Newton.



## MILES MERWIN

### HIS ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS

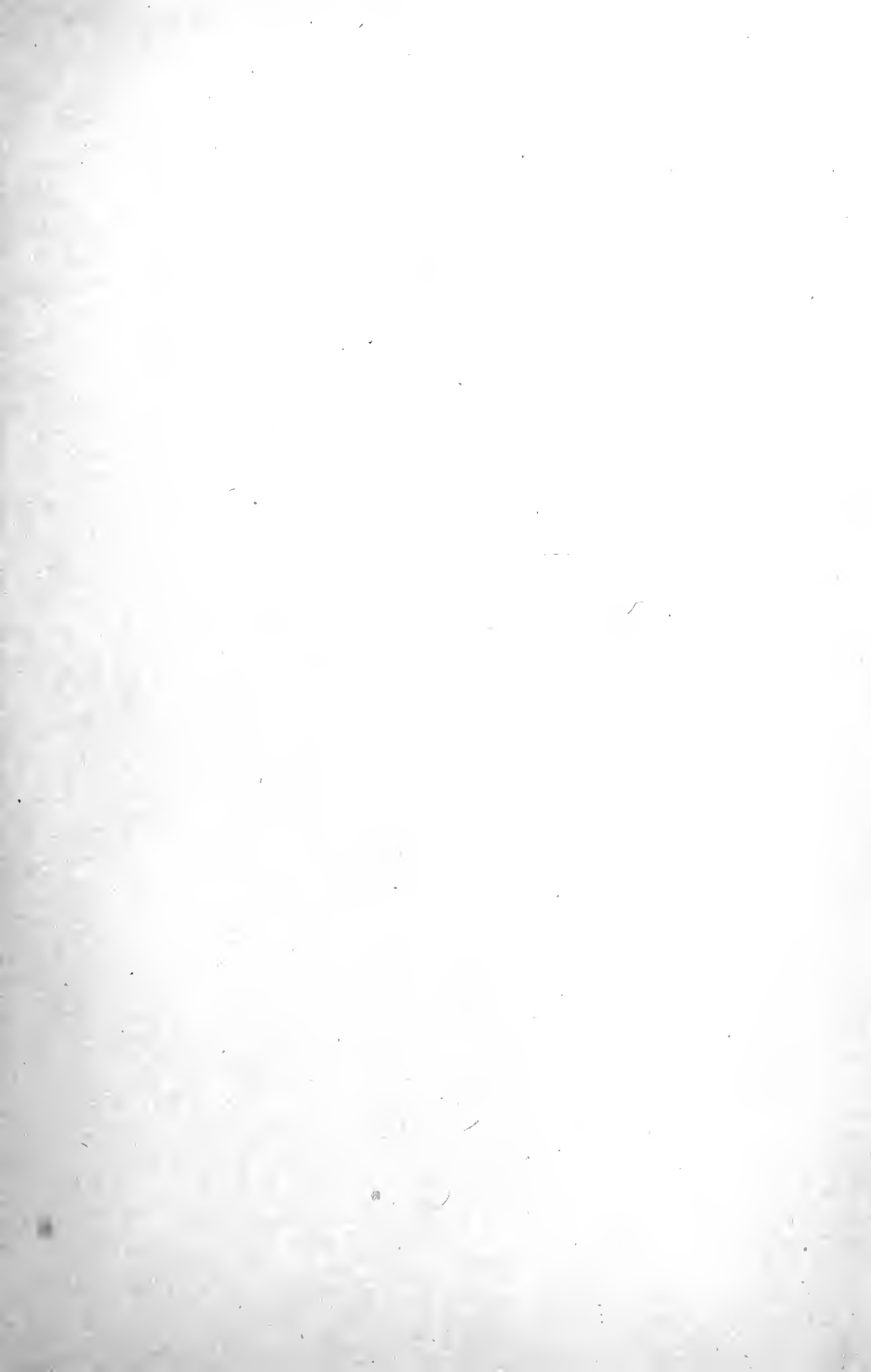
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MERWIN. MILES has been the family name for many generations, the first MILES MERWIN in this country having come from North Wales to Milford, Conn., as early as 1645. He was born about 1603, and learned in England the trade of a tanner. In Milford he became the owner of a large tract of land on the shore of Long Island Sound, now known as Pond Point and Merwin's Point, and a part of which is still owned by his descendants. His gravestone, now standing in Milford cemetery, is the only one remaining of the early settlers. He lived to be ninety-four years of age. He married young, and, if the family record is correct, became the father of fifteen children, by three different mothers.

His son MILES, born December 14, 1658, married Hannah Wilmot, of Milford.

Their son DANIEL, born in Milford, married Sarah Botchford, also of Milford, and removed to Durham, Conn., about 1721. He became prominent in Durham affairs, and is called the Hon. Daniel Merwin. He purchased 100 acres of land for £200 in the north-western part of the town, besides 100 acres more in Haddam and Middletown, for which he paid £500. This land in Durham had never been occupied by any white man, and was a part of that granted by the General Court to Aaron Cook in 1689, the original deed of that date being now in the possession of the family, and labeled "Deed of Land in Cogonshake," that being one way of spelling the Indian name (Coginchaug) of the place before it was settled as a town.

Daniel and Sarah Merwin had five children, of whom the second son, MILES, was the ancestor of the Durham Merwins. He was born March 29, 1721. In May, 1757, he was appointed, by the General Assembly, "Cornet of the troop of horse in the 10th Regiment in this Colony," and in May, 1764, was appoint-





MILES MERWIN  
1772-1859  
Sixth generation

ed lieutenant in the same regiment. The sword which he wore in the French and Indian war, and probably also in the war of the Revolution, is still a valued heirloom in the possession of his descendants. He may have served earlier in some other capacity, as a cartridge box marked "IIInd Comy Xth Regt," is still in the possession of his great-great-grandson, Miles Talcott Merwin. He married Mary Talcott, granddaughter of Col. John Talcott, one of the original proprietors of Durham, and they lived in Durham, in the second house north of the factory of the Merriam Manufacturing Company, which he inherited from his father, Daniel. They had eight children, the first-born being named Miles.

This MILES, the fifth in line of descent in this country, married Mary Parmelee, granddaughter of Joel Parmelee, who was one of the first proprietors. They had eleven children, the third child and first son receiving the name of Miles.

MILES MERWIN, last mentioned, known to the generation now passing as Miles Merwin, Sr., the sixth in line of descent in

this country, was born in Durham, February 2, 1772, and died July 31, 1859.

He lived in an age when farming was the principal occupation, and included most kinds of manufacturing, and Durham made nearly everything that was used there. The family raised their own flax, broke it, spun and wove it, and made the cloth into garments. They raised the sheep and sheared them. The girls carded, spun and wove the wool, and made clothes for the men from the cloth. Industries were varied, and a successful farmer must needs be a good business man.

In his early youth, a colony of Merwins went forth from Durham, Conn., and settled a town in Greene county, N. Y., calling it Durham after their native village. For many years it was his custom to make them an annual visit, driving with his family 120 miles in three days.

Like his fathers before him, and his descendants after him, he took his part in the world's work. He feared God, but not man; attended church fifty-two Sundays in the year, and twice each Sunday; commenced the Sabbath at sundown on Saturday; brought up a

family of eight children; settled his two sons upon farms adjoining his own; and proved himself in every way a true member of the Merwin family, viz., a typical son of New England. He ruled over his family, as was his right and duty according to the doctrine of the age, and was resolute in maintaining his position when he knew he was right. His children honored him. Let his many descendants do likewise.

Miles Merwin, Sr., was married November 27, 1794, to Phebe Camp (born February 4, 1773, died December 1, 1812), who was a descendant of Nicholas Camp, one of the earliest settlers in Milford. They had nine children: Miles, born September 7, 1795, died July 17, 1879; Alva, born October 12, 1796, died June 3, 1802; Phebe Camp, born March 31, 1798, died October 8, 1884; Ruth, born December 11, 1799, died April 3, 1854; Mary Parmelee, born November 12, 1801, died November 8, 1873; Alva, born October 29, 1803, died May 1, 1892; Rhoda, born September 11, 1805, died November 27, 1868; Noah, born June 24, 1807, died May 21, 1849; Nan-

cy Maria, born March 29, 1810, died February 9, 1857.

Two years after the death of the mother of his children he was married January 2, 1814, to Abigail Seward (born January 30, 1772, died March 23, 1837). He was again married October 11, 1837, to Grace Kirby (born January 17, 1775, died August 13, 1856), of Cromwell, then known as Middletown Upper Houses. The Merwin homestead, an engraving of which appears here, was owned and occupied by his father and by him, and this sketch principally concerns his descendants.

MILES MERWIN, eldest son of Miles and Phebe (Camp) Merwin, known to the present generation as Miles Merwin, Jr., was the seventh in line of descent in this country. He lived in the house built by Samuel Fairchild, whereof the chimney bears the date "1727," and which stands next east of the Merwin home shown in the engraving. While still a youth he served in the war of 1812. He was enterprising and vigorous. He added to the occupation of farmer that of drover,





MILES MERWIN  
1795-1879  
Seventh generation



HARRIET WHITE, HIS WIFE  
1795-1858



bringing each year large droves of cattle which he purchased in northern and eastern New York. He was influential in the establishment of the Merriam Manufacturing Company, which has contributed so much during more than fifty years to the prosperity of Durham. He was a large stockholder at its organization, and for many years continued to be its first president. In the early days he was very frequently called upon to try cases before justices, and exhibited much legal talent. He especially delighted in a victory over Henry B. Harrison, won in the early days of his practice in an arbitration case. For a long time in the latter part of his life he was the trial justice of the town.

Mr. Merwin was married October 17, 1821, to Wealthy Sage (born October 22, 1795, died September 10, 1825). Their children were: Miles Talcott, born October 11, 1822; Henry Sage, born July 20, 1824. Mr. Merwin married (second) December 21, 1827, Harriet (White) Keith (born January 12, 1795, died June 10, 1858). Their children were: Wealthy Sage, born November 24, 1828; Caroline Ellen, June 28, 1831 (died

February 19, 1863); Phebe Camp, October 24, 1832 (died January 5, 1869); Margaret, July 10, 1836; Maria White, September 25, 1839. Mr. Merwin married (third) June 3, 1863, Mary (Wooster) Leavenworth (born July 27, 1806, died March 12, 1880).

MILES TALCOTT MERWIN, son of Miles Merwin, Jr., and Wealthy (Sage) Merwin, and eighth in line of descent, received the name of Talcott in memory of his great-great-grandmother, Mary Talcott, who was descended from Col. John Talcott, of Hartford, one of the original proprietors of Durham. His business has been mainly that of lumberman and farmer, in both of which he has been very successful. In 1867 he purchased the larger part of a township on the side of Blue Mountain, in Hamilton county, in the Adirondacks, and built there the original "Blue Mountain House," overlooking Blue Mountain lake, which later was and still is owned by his eldest son. Two other sons have also married and settled in that region, and he now has three sons and thirteen grandchildren there.

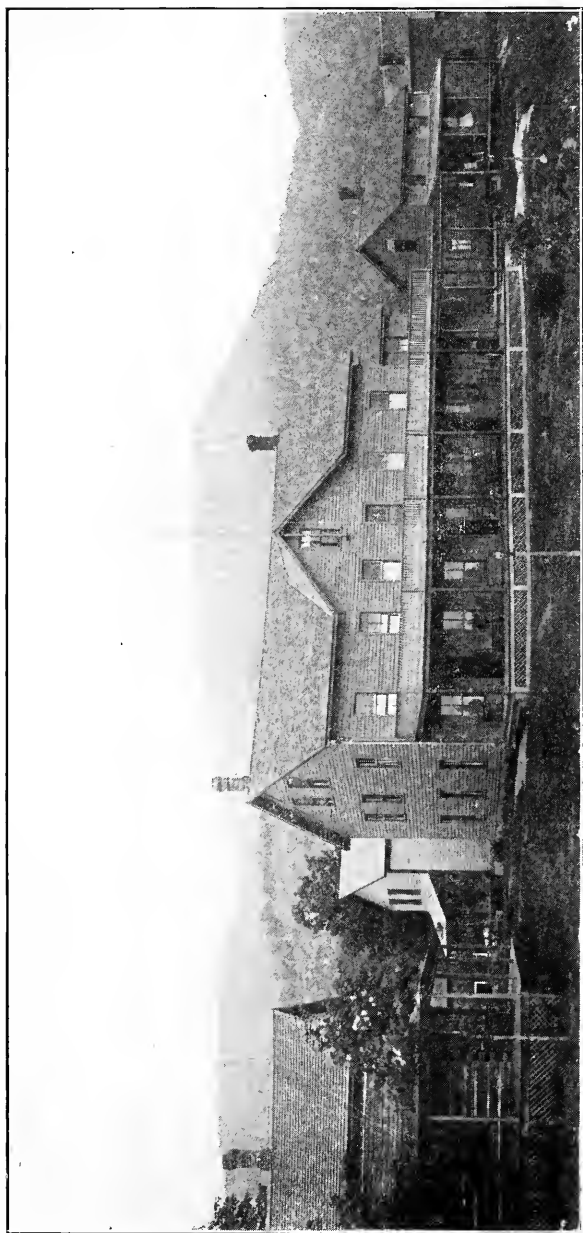
Mr. Merwin has always been a steadfast Republican and an unfailing supporter of the



MILES TALCOTT MERWIN  
1822-1904  
Eighth generation







BLUE MOUNTAIN HOUSE  
Home of Miles Tyler Merwin  
Blue Mountain Lake, N. Y.



church. He has been especially noted for his firmness and courage in adversity, taking his part wherever it lay without regard to praise or blame, and his tenacity in doing his work without regard to bodily ailments. Of late years he has given his attention entirely to the management of his farm in Durham.

Mr. Merwin married November 20, 1848, Elizabeth Ann Tyler (born October 21, 1821, died December 10, 1849), and their son, Miles Tyler, was born November 9, 1849. Mr. Merwin married (second) May 8, 1851, Ellen Agnes Foote (born December 14, 1823, died March 18, 1889). Their children: Ella Elizabeth, born April 17, 1852; Walter Lee, March 23, 1854; Benjamin Foote, August 27, 1855; Emily Foote, September 17, 1857; Ralph Linsley, April 22, 1860; Agnes Dickerman, May 16, 1864.

Miles Tyler Merwin, son of Miles Talcott and Elizabeth A. (Tyler) Merwin, and ninth in line of descent, is the proprietor of the "Blue Mountain House," a summer hotel in the Adirondacks. He is also engaged in lumbering during the winter and operates a sawmill in the spring and fall. He has held the office of

justice of the peace for sixteen years, and justice of sessions for six years; also school trustee, fire warden, postmaster and other minor offices. He is very active in church work and has been Sunday-school superintendent for several years. Benjamin Foote Merwin and Ralph Linsley Merwin, the two brothers who followed Miles Tyler to Blue Mountain Lake some years later, have been connected with the place in carrying on business and holding offices, and are doing their share in making "the wilderness blossom as the rose."

Miles Tyler Merwin married Fannie O. Barker November 24, 1879, and they have five children: Miles Herbert, born August 3, 1881; Helen Elizabeth, March 20, 1883; Russell Lee, June 25, 1886; Gertrude Estelle, October 2, 1889; Theodore Edwin, May 5, 1899. Miles Herbert Merwin, eldest son of Miles Tyler Merwin, and tenth in the line of descent, is studying for the profession of civil engineer.

Ella Elizabeth Merwin, Emily Foote Merwin and Agnes Dickerman Merwin, daughters of Miles Talcott and Ellen A. (Foote)

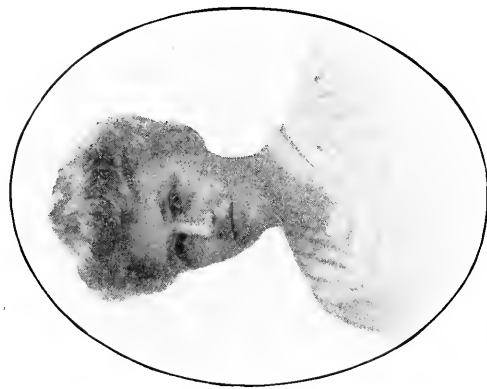


MILES TYLER MERWIN  
Ninth generation

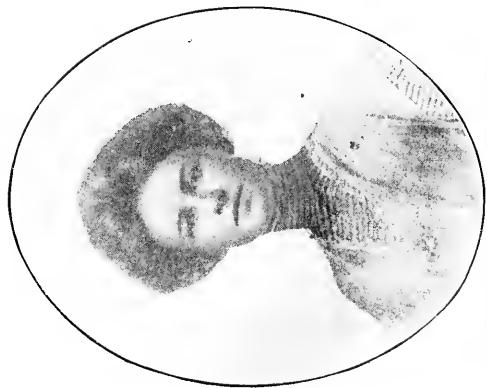


MILES HERBERT MERWIN  
Tenth generation



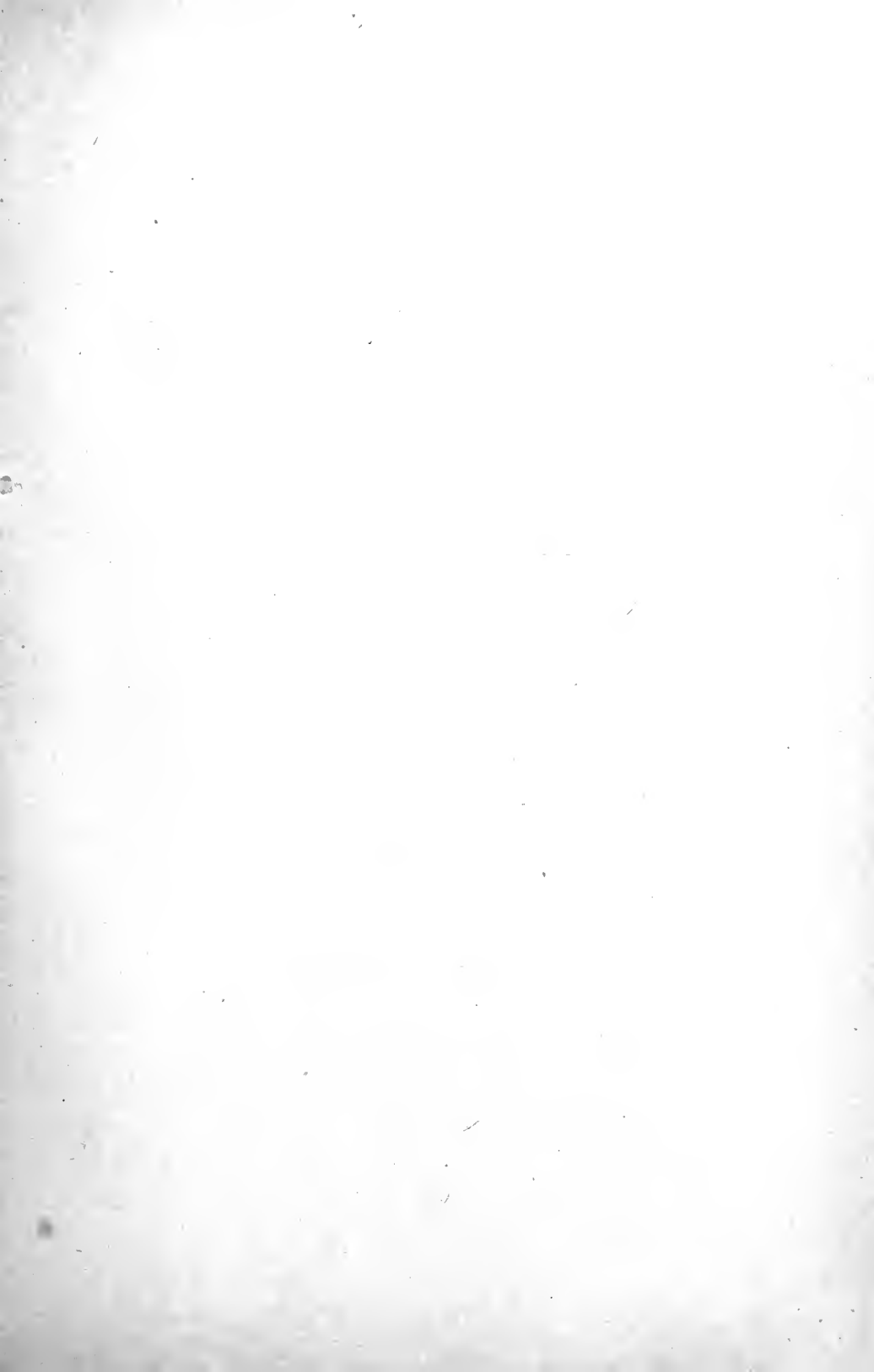


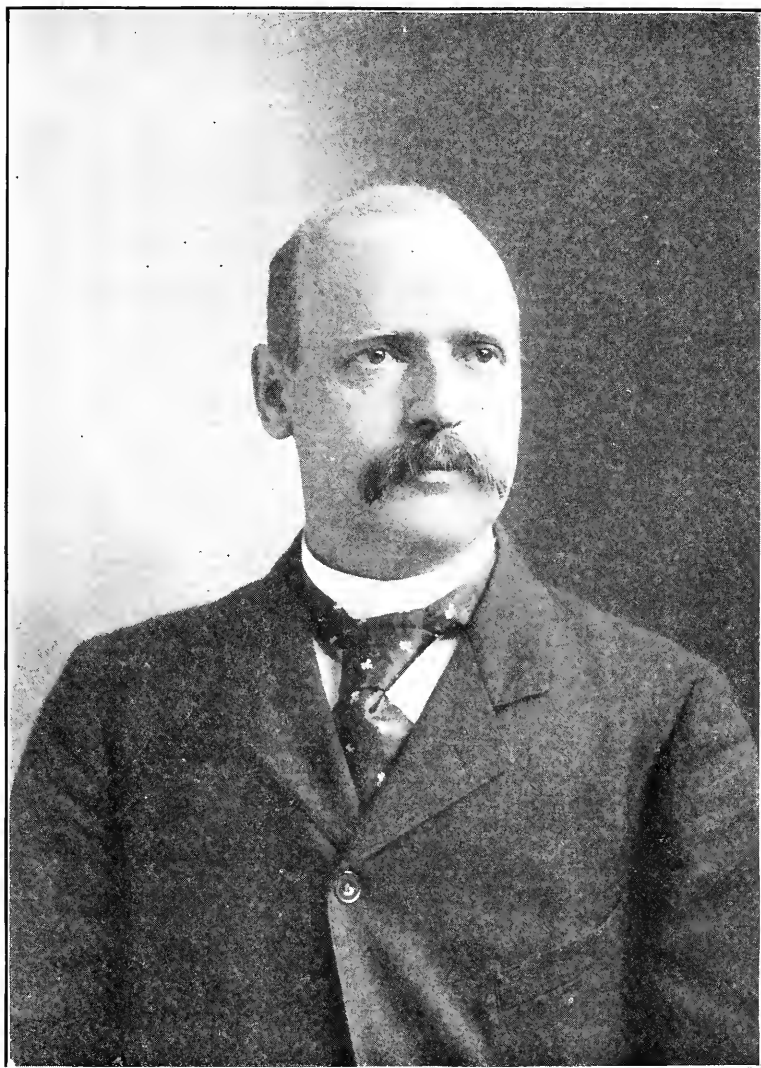
HELEN ELIZABETH MERWIN



GERTRUDE ESTELLE MERWIN







WALTER LEE MERWIN  
1854-1905  
Ninth generation



Merwin, reside at their father's home in Durham. All three were well educated, and have been capable and efficient teachers; Ella and Emily in Durham and Middletown, and Agnes is at present teaching in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Walter Lee Merwin, son of Miles Talcott and Ellen A. (Foote) Merwin, prepared for college at Durham Academy, and graduated at Yale in 1878. He was for three years professor of Greek and mathematics in New Windsor (Md.) College, then read law with Hon. Charles S. McCormick, at Lock Haven, Clinton Co., Penn., was admitted to the Bar in 1883, and began the practice of law in that place. In 1889 he removed to Pittsburg, Penn., where he has since been successfully engaged in the practice of the law. He married Maria Louise Moore December 24, 1885, and they have three children: William Walters, born July 11, 1887; Miles Henderson, July 23, 1892; and Margaret Russell, July 30, 1895.

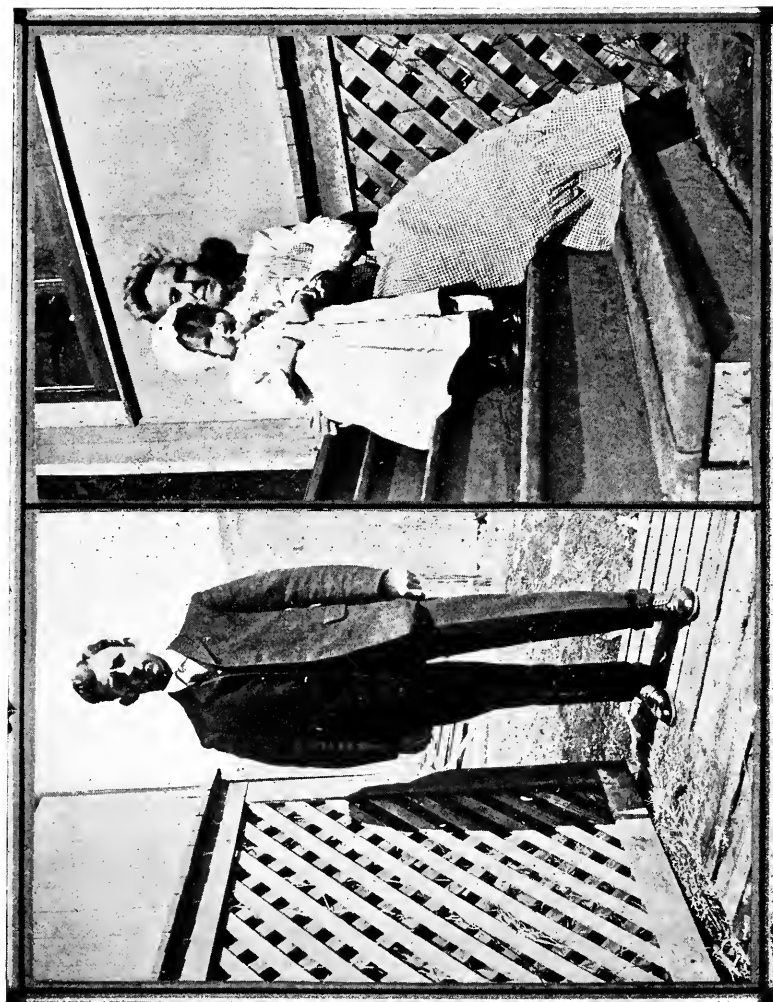
Benjamin Foote Merwin, son of Miles Talcott and Ellen A. (Foote) Merwin, was married to Clara Griffin February 22, 1883.

Their children are: Grace Clara, born February 24, 1884; Charles Benjamin, November 15, 1885; George Barber, January 5, 1887; Emily Lottie, July 10, 1890; Earl, August 15, 1893; Milford, September 12, 1895; Benjamin Foote, April 12, 1897.

Ralph Linsley Merwin, son of Miles Talcott and Ellen A. (Foote) Merwin, married Mary Ella Pascoe December 2, 1887. Their children: Walter Cyrus, born June 5, 1889; Ethel May, born April 12, 1891, died July 13, 1894.

HENRY SAGE MERWIN, son of Miles Merwin, Jr., and Wealthy (Sage) Merwin, received the name of Sage from his mother, who was the aunt of Edmund Sage (who married Rhoda Merwin), and the great-granddaughter of David Sage, the emigrant to this country. He is thus a cousin of Russell Sage, the New York financier. In his youth he taught school four winters, and also spent a year in business in Richmond, Virginia.

Henry S. Merwin married early in life, and built a house in Durham, near to those occupied by his father and grandfather. He has been mainly engaged in farming, and pur-



WALTER CYRUS MERWIN  
Tenth generation

MRS. R. L. MERWIN  
ESTHER RUSSELL MERWIN  
Tenth generation





HENRY SAGE MERWIN  
Eighth generation



chased a large amount of land around and near his home, including a part of that owned by the first Daniel Merwin. His buildings were extensive, and he was well known through the county, and, to a considerable extent, through the State. He continues hale and vigorous.

He exhibited well the Merwin characteristic of resistance to oppression when an attempt was made by State commissioners to condemn a pair of fine horses. In spite of persuasion and threats, to which most would have succumbed, he maintained his position, and two General Assemblies of the State recognized that he was right and compensated him for his expense in the contest; while the horses lived on to a good old age, thus setting at naught the diagnoses of a host of veterinarians.

Mr. Merwin was married May 16, 1848, to Sylvia Minerva Merriam (born March 20, 1827, died September 20, 1900), of Meriden, Conn. Their children: Asaph Merriam, born November 2, 1849; Sylvia Elizabeth, July 5, 1851; Elisha Sage, October 29, 1853 (died December 22, 1853); Frank Howard,

September 25, 1855 (died August 30, 1873); Arthur Henry, June 18, 1860; William Page, October 13, 1862 (died January 4, 1866).

Asaph Merriam Merwin, eldest son of Henry S. and Sylvia M. (Merriam) Merwin, left his father's farm in 1872, and for eighteen years was engaged in the manufacture of building brick, near Perth Amboy, N. J. In 1890, he returned to Durham, and two years later purchased the family homestead, formerly owned by his grandfather, where he is engaged in farming and poultry raising. He married Mary Ball Tappan, of Elizabeth, N. J., September 20, 1877, and they have one son, Harry Merriam Merwin, who was born at Perth Amboy, January 14, 1886.

Sylvia Elizabeth Merwin, daughter of Henry S. and Sylvia M. (Merriam) Merwin, was a teacher for several years, being a graduate of the State Normal School at New Britain in 1874, and her eldest daughter is now taking a course in the same school. She was married May 19, 1880, to William Curtis Barhite, now merchant and postmaster in Ridgefield, Conn. Their children: Sylvia Maria, born March 17, 1882; Helen Iola,





ASAPH MERRIAM MERWIN  
Ninth generation



HARRY MERRIAM MERWIN  
Tenth generation



March 12, 1884; Emma Agnes, October 1, 1887.

Frank Howard Merwin, son of Henry S. and Sylvia M. (Merriam) Merwin, was educated at Durham Academy. Faithful and reliable, he was becoming of much use in the family and the church. He was drowned while bathing in the mill pond on Allyn's brook, near the center of the town, when nearly eighteen years of age. The bearers at his funeral were the six other members of the Bible class to which he belonged, all seven of the young men having united with the church about a year previous.

Arthur Henry Merwin, son of Henry S. and Sylvia M. (Merriam) Merwin, was with his father extensively engaged in farming in Durham, and was also for several years deputy sheriff of Middlesex county. In 1900 he removed to New Haven, where he now resides. He married Kate A. Bailey, of Higganum, Conn., December 20, 1883. Their children: Phebe White, born October 6, 1884; Ruth Ella, April 17, 1887 (died April 30, 1891); Edna Althea, March 9, 1889; Elsie Margaret, June 5, 1891; Myra, June 20, 1895.

WEALTHY SAGE MERWIN, daughter of Miles Merwin, Jr., and Harriet (White) Merwin, was engaged in teaching for ten years, in Durham, Conn., and in Morristown, N. J. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was married December 5, 1858, to John Ives (born December 25, 1825), of Meriden, Conn., senior member of the firm of Ives, Upham & Rand. Their children: Leland Howard, born October 16, 1859; Harriet White, born September 14, 1861.

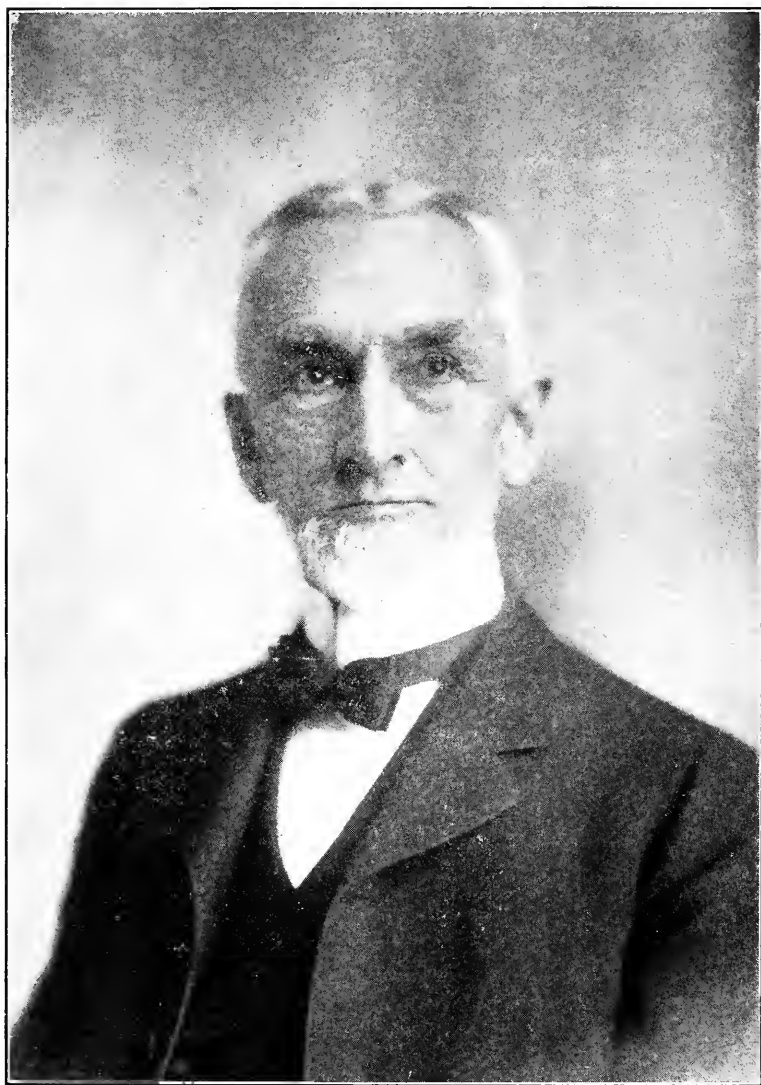
Leland Howard Ives, son of John and Wealthy S. (Merwin) Ives, is connected with his father in the dry-goods business in Meriden, and is also engaged in the care of real estate.

Harriet White Ives, daughter of John and Wealthy S. (Merwin) Ives, was married December 2, 1885, to James Perry Platt, of Meriden, Conn., Judge of the United States District Court, and son of O. H. Platt, United States senator. They have had two children: Margery, born December 30, 1886; and James Perry, Jr., born February 20, 1889, who died July 19, of the same year.



WEALTHY SAGE MERWIN IVES  
Eighth generation

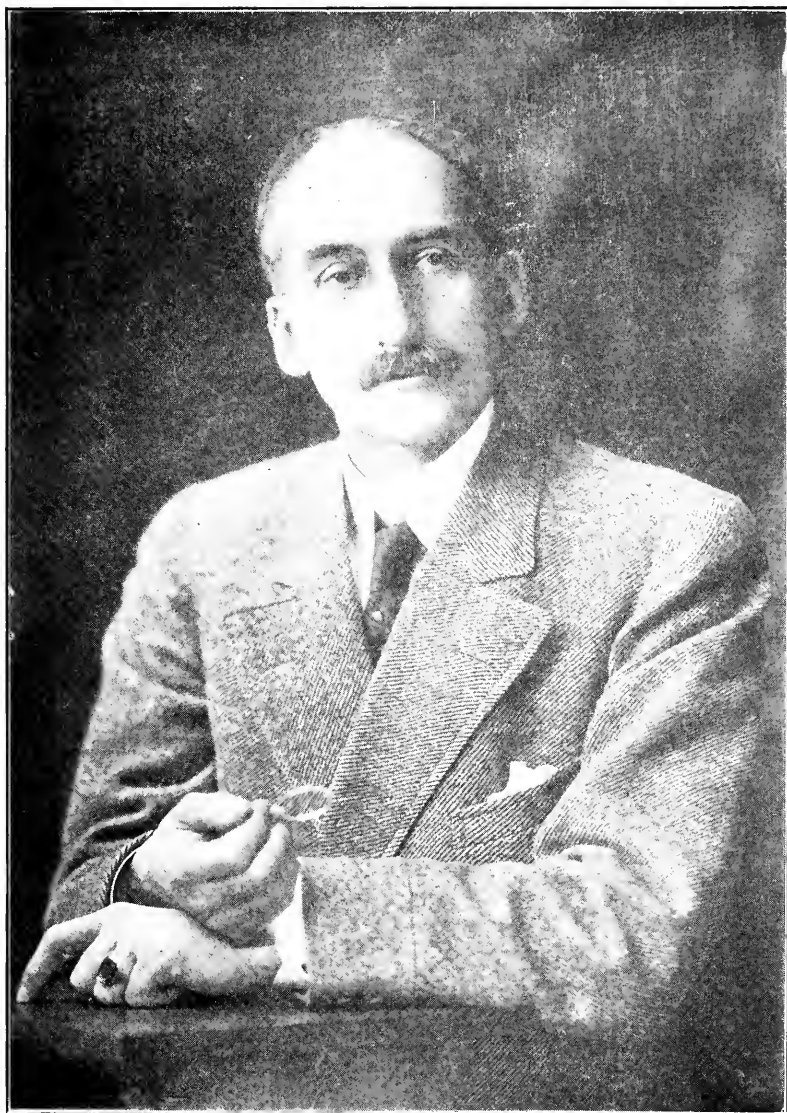




JOHN IVES.







LELAND HOWARD IVES  
Ninth generation





HARRIET WHITE IVES PLATT  
Ninth generation





U. S. JUDGE JAMES PERRY PLATT  
Ninth in descent from Richard Platt  
who came from England in 1638





MARGERY PLATT  
Tenth generation





CAROLINE MERWIN, second daughter of Miles, Jr., and Harriet (White) Merwin, spent most of her life at her father's home in Durham. She was always thoughtful for the comfort of others, possessing ability and good judgment, and was a favorite among her sisters, who considered her much like their Aunt Phebe White. Through a long illness of ten years she was bright and cheerful. She died at the age of thirty-one, at the home of her sister in Meriden, where she passed the last two years of her life.

PHEBE CAMP MERWIN, daughter of Miles Merwin, Jr., and Harriet (White) Merwin, was married in April, 1853, to Gershom Birdsey (born May 5, 1832, died September 2, 1856), of Meriden, Conn. Their son, Eddie, was born January 15, 1856, and died August 15, of the same year. Phebe C. (Merwin) Birdsey was married (second) in January, 1861, to Abner Canfield Wetmore, of Meriden, Conn. Their children: Martha Scovil, born October 8, 1861; Julia Merwin, born April 20, 1868.

Martha Scovil Wetmore, daughter of Abner C. and Phebe C. (Merwin) Wetmore,

was for three years a pupil at Mt. Holyoke Seminary. She left the Seminary after the death of her father, in 1883, and has been a teacher for seventeen years in the schools of Meriden.

Julia Merwin Wetmore, daughter of Abner C. and Phebe C. (Merwin) Wetmore, was married to William L. Hatch April 3, 1889, and their son, Harold Wetmore, was born January 24, 1890.

MARGARET MERWIN, daughter of Miles Merwin, Jr., and Harriet (White) Merwin, was a pupil at Mt. Holyoke Seminary, and was for thirteen years a teacher in the schools of Durham, Meriden and New Haven. She was married April 2, 1870, to Abner Canfield Wetmore (born October 21, 1815, died June 3, 1883), of Meriden, Conn. Their daughter, Fannie Canfield, was born April 8, 1876.

Fannie Canfield Wetmore, only daughter of Abner C. and Margaret (Merwin) Wetmore, resides with her mother in Meriden. She has had a business education and has been for seven years in the office of the C. F. Monroe Company, manufacturers of cut glass, in Meriden.





KATHARINE EATON BLACK SAFFORD  
Tenth generation

MARIA WHITE MERWIN, youngest daughter of Miles Merwin, Jr., and Harriet (White) Merwin, was married July 31, 1865, to Edwin Jerome Black (born August 4, 1841), who served in the Civil war, as a member of Company D, Twentieth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, being one year with the Army of the Potomac, and two years with Sherman's Army in the Southwest. They now reside in Rockfall, Conn. Their children: William Jerome, born February 13, 1867; Carrie Phebe, born October 23, 1870.

William Jerome Black, son of Edwin J. and Maria W. (Merwin) Black, served three years in the regular army, then enlisted at New Orleans in the Second Louisiana Regiment, and served in Cuba during the Spanish war.

Carrie Phebe Black, daughter of Edwin J. and Maria W. (Merwin) Black, was married to Edward Safford in May 1888; and their daughter, Katie Eaton, was born in July, 1889.

PHEBE CAMP MERWIN, daughter of Miles Merwin, Sr., and Phebe (Camp) Mer-

win, was fourteen years of age when her mother died, leaving her the eldest of six daughters and next to the eldest in a family of eight children. Thus early in life placed in a responsible position as head of her father's household, she developed great decision of character and executive ability. Two years later, when relieved of the burden by the coming of a stepmother, she resumed her place as a dutiful daughter and loving sister, until most of her brothers and sisters were settled in life; then, on October 5, 1836, she was united in marriage to Seymour White (born in 1794, died March 18, 1838), of her native town, who was engaged in the shoemaking business. Mrs. White's wedded life was of brief duration. She returned to her father's house after the death of her husband, and some months later was offered the position of matron of the Asylum for the Deaf at Hartford. She assumed its duties in the autumn of 1839, with many misgivings, but for thirty-two years filled the position with "rare fidelity, devotion and success."

The high esteem in which she was held is shown by the following extract from the



*Phebe C. White*





"Annals of the Deaf and Dumb," published at Washington, D. C.: "Mrs. White was a woman of great equanimity, common sense and large charity for all, with rare poise of Christian character. Prompt, energetic, firm, kind, she ruled the servants with a strong yet gentle hand, and no negligence was tolerated in her department of the Asylum. To the teachers and other officers she was ever courteous and kind—a trusted counsellor and friend; to the pupils she was a faithful, wise, judicious mother, winning the love and respect of all; and the hundreds of graduates whom she has watched over and befriended will ever keep her in affectionate remembrance."

In the autumn of 1871, at the age of seventy-three, Mrs. White resigned her position and returned to the home of her childhood, there to pass her remaining years. She outlived all her brothers and sisters except one, a widowed sister, who came to be a companion for her in the house in which they were born. Here, for thirteen years, "surrounded by a large circle of relatives and friends, her Christian character bore richest fruit in large-hearted benevolence and charity."

Mrs. White was always interested in church and Sunday-school work, and, at the time of her death was still a member of the Bible class. Upon the organization of the first Sunday-school in Durham, about 1818, she was the female superintendent. Sixty years later she gave a cabinet organ to the same school, and in her will left a fund to provide a yearly addition to its library. She also left by will a gift to the church which became the nucleus of the fund for the building of the parlors, which are now so important in its social life. She remembered, also, the benevolent societies of the Congregational Churches.

Mrs. White ever maintained a lively interest in the members and numerous descendants of her father's family, and her advice and aid were often sought and freely given. Always generous and helpful to them during her life, she was also enabled by economy and prudence in the management of her income, to leave by will a substantial legacy to each of her twenty nephews and nieces.

This sketch of the Merwin family is inserted here through the contributions of her nephews and nieces, as a token of their appre-

ciation of her thoughtful and loving remembrance of them, and in the hope that it may cause her to be kept in mind, and assist in maintaining among succeeding generations the recognition of relationship and interest in each other which she did so much to foster, and which has characterized those of our time.

RUTH MERWIN, daughter of Miles Merwin, Sr., and Phebe (Camp) Merwin, was married September 28, 1829, to James Edward Lee (born October 20, 1800, died November 18, 1889), who occupied the farm in Guilford, Conn., which has been in the possession of his family since the settlement of the town. Here she resided with her husband until her death, which occurred twenty-five years later.

Before her marriage she learned the milliner's trade in Middletown, Conn., and was for some years engaged in that business. She was a devoted wife and mother, loving and tender, self-sacrificing to a fault, and her Christian character impressed itself upon all with whom she was connected. Her early married life was saddened by the loss of their

first three children, Charlotte Elizabeth, Edward Merwin and William Henry, who died in infancy. Their other children were: Mary Elizabeth, born July 20, 1833; Edward Merwin, August 23, 1835; Ellen Maria, April 7, 1839; William Henry, July 15, 1841; Charles Gilbert, January 31, 1843 (died March 6, 1865).

MARY ELIZABETH LEE, daughter of James E. and Ruth (Merwin) Lee, was educated at Guilford Institute, and was for several years a teacher, also an author. She was married at Cheyenne, Wyo., September 30, 1874, to Prof. N. E. Stark, who was school commissioner for New Hampshire four years, and principal of schools in Cheyenne for thirteen years. Their son, Edward Thayer, was born at Cheyenne, October 28, 1875.

Edward Thayer Stark, son of N. E. and Mary E. (Lee) Stark, is a graduate of Wyoming University, 1899. He was married September 26, 1901, to Amanda Needles, of Atlantic, Iowa, and is now telephone inspector in Denver, Colorado.

EDWARD MERWIN LEE, son of James E. and Ruth (Merwin) Lee, is a lawyer by pro-



MARY ELIZABETH LEE STARK  
Eighth generation





EDWARD MERWIN LEE  
Colonel 5th Mich. Cavalry, U. S. V.  
Brigadier General  
Eighth generation





fession, admitted to the Bar in New York in 1861, and in the United States Supreme Court in 1865. He served through the Civil war, becoming a private in the Fifth Michigan Cavalry, was promoted through the different grades to captain, lieutenant colonel and colonel in the same regiment, and afterward brevetted brigadier general. For fourteen months he was in Libby and other military prisons, where his cheerfulness and courage aided much in keeping up the spirits of his comrades.

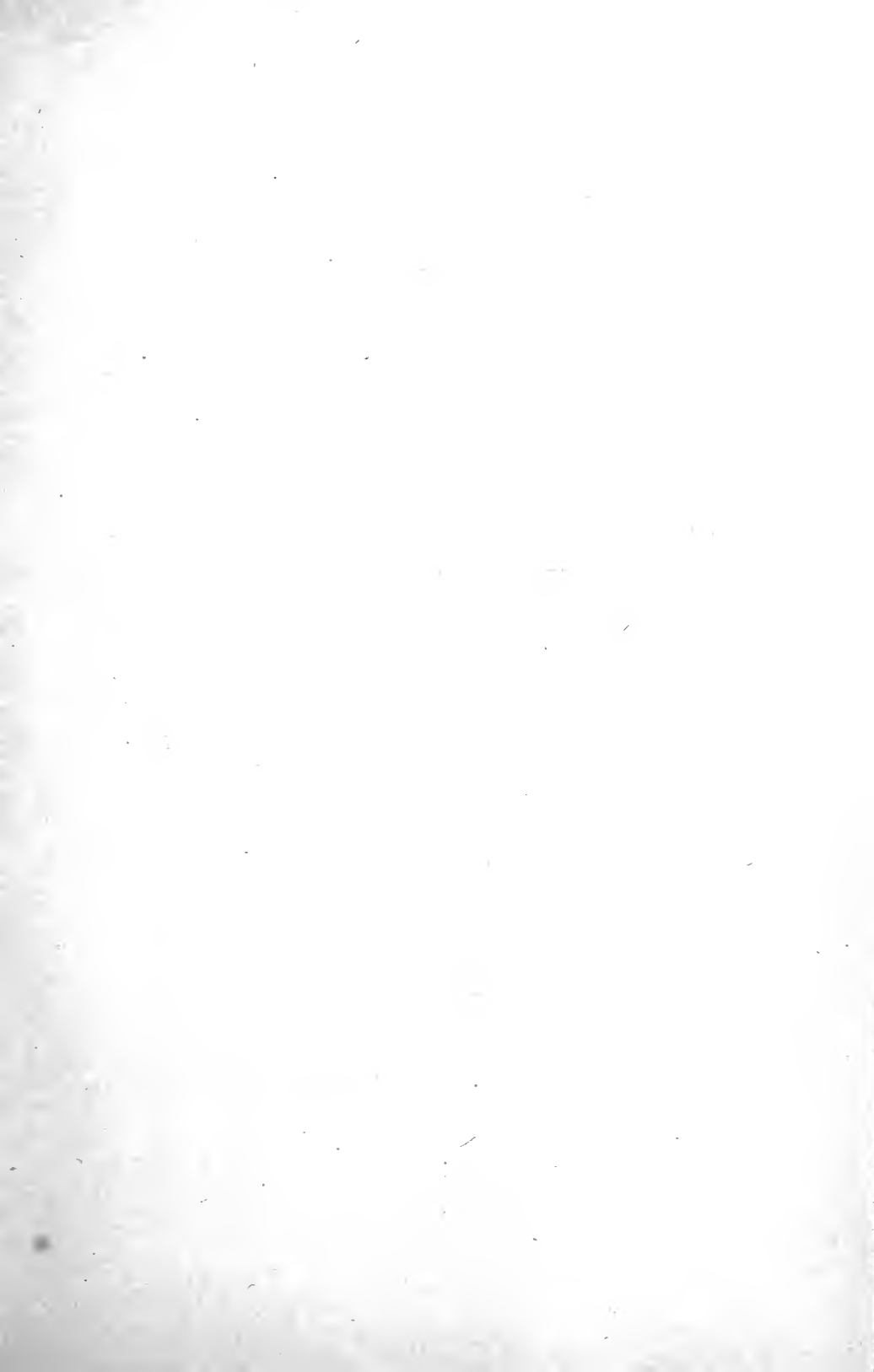
Gen. Lee represented Guilford in the General Assembly in 1866 and 1867; organized Wyoming Territory in 1869, as secretary and acting governor; secured the passage of the Woman Suffrage Law there, and appointed women to office; and has made political speeches in all National and some State campaigns from 1865 to 1892, over a thousand in all. For the last twenty-five years he has been engaged in the practice of law in New York City.

ELLEN MARIA LEE, daughter of James E. and Ruth (Merwin) Lee, was educated at Guilford Institute, and, like her sister, became a teacher and author. She was married Octo-

ber 20, 1864, to Samuel Allen Bristol (born October 7, 1841), of Guilford, Conn., who served nine months in the Civil war, as a member of the Twenty-seventh Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, and was for two weeks in Libby prison. They removed in 1869 to Cheyenne, Wyo., where he established and now conducts, as president, the S. A. Bristol Publishing Company. Their children: Kate, born in Guilford May 27, 1865; Edward Merwin Lee, born in Cheyenne November 15, 1869; Sara, born in Guilford August 29, 1871; Charles Allen, born in Cheyenne February 13, 1874; Ruth, born in Cheyenne October 28, 1877 (died March 19, 1880); Ellen, born in Cheyenne November 13, 1879.

Kate Bristol, daughter of S. Allen and Ellen M. (Lee) Bristol, was married September 20, 1887, to John Knox Wade (born December 3, 1861, died May 17, 1892); their son, John Knox, born December 9, 1888, died August 12, 1890; their daughter, Kate, was born August 4, 1891.

Edward Merwin Lee Bristol, son of S. Allen and Ellen M. (Lee) Bristol, a printer by trade, was married September 30, 1890, to





WILLIAM HENRY LEE  
Co. B., 16th Regt., C. V.  
Eighth generation

Margaret Morrison (born April 25, 1868), at Cheyenne. Their children: Francis Sistere, born September 30, 1891; John Allen, June 27, 1895; William Merwin, January 2, 1898.

Sara Bristol, daughter of S. Allen and Ellen M. (Lee) Bristol, was married September 18, 1895, to William Curtiss Mains (born September 3, 1871), of Brooklyn, N. Y. Their daughter, Margaret, born June 29, 1900, died October 4, 1901, at Mt. Vernon, New York.

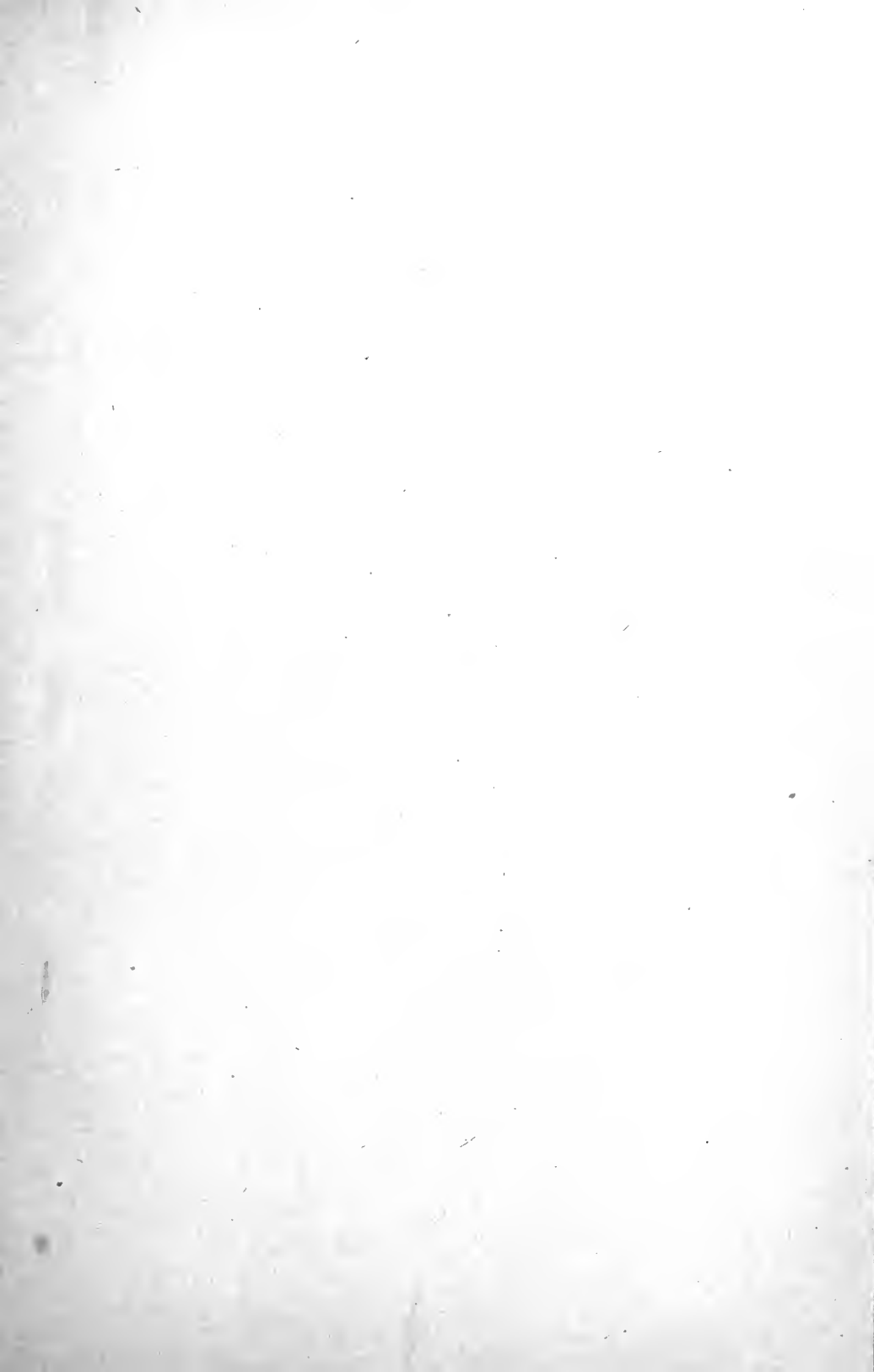
Charles Allen Bristol, son of S. Allen and Ellen M. (Lee) Bristol, a book binder by trade, enlisted in May, 1898, in Battery A, Wyoming Light Artillery, United States Volunteers, and served as second lieutenant in that battery during the campaign in the Philippines, until honorably discharged and mustered out in September, 1899. He married Daze May McCabe, of Cheyenne, April 18, 1900.

WILLIAM HENRY LEE, son of James E. and Ruth (Merwin) Lee, served in the Civil war, enlisting in 1862, in Company B, Sixteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, and was discharged for disability in 1863. He is a farmer in Guilford, and represented that town in the General Assembly in 1886. He

was a charter member of the Guilford Battery, and remained a member for twenty years, being corporal, second lieutenant, and for more than four years its first captain. He married Mary Elizabeth Griswold, of Mystic, Conn., November 21, 1867. Their children: Ruth Mary, born July 28, 1869; Charles Sherman, November 12, 1870; Edward Merwin, December 1, 1872 (died August 10, 1892); William Randall, February 14, 1876; Albert Clifford, August 5, 1883.

Ruth Mary Lee, daughter of William H. and Mary E. (Griswold) Lee, married Addison Earle Baldwin, of Branford, Conn., April 5, 1893. Their children are: Dorothy Rae, born June 1, 1895; Harriet Carpenter, born July 1, 1900.

Charles Sherman Lee, son of William H. and Mary E. (Griswold) Lee, was for seven years a member of Battery A, Connecticut National Guard, and for five years of the Connecticut Naval Reserves. At the outbreak of the Spanish war he enlisted as seaman in the United States Navy, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. He is now a member of Company F, Second Regiment,





CHARLES GILBERT LEE  
Co. B., 16th Reg., C. V.  
1843-1865  
Eighth generation



Connecticut National Guard (New Haven Grays). He is engaged in manufacturing in New Haven.

Edward Merwin Lee, son of William H. and Mary E. (Griswold) Lee, was a graduate of Guilford Institute, in 1890. He was a bright scholar and a great favorite. He was for a time employed in Meriden, and afterward entered the wholesale house of Charles G. Kimberly in New Haven. There, a few months later, he received injuries, by falling down an elevator shaft, which resulted in his death.

William Randall Lee, son of William H. and Mary E. (Griswold) Lee, with his brother Charles S. served in the navy during the Spanish war, and is now a member of the Connecticut Naval Reserves. He was married November 28, 1900, to Lucy Foote, of Guilford, Conn., and is engaged in manufacturing in New Haven.

Albert Clifford Lee, youngest son of William H. and Mary E. (Griswold) Lee, still remains on the farm with his father.

CHARLES GILBERT LEE, son of James E. and Ruth (Merwin) Lee, served in the Civil

war, enlisting in Company B, Sixteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. He was made corporal August 11, 1863; was in several battles; captured with his regiment at Plymouth, N. C., April 20, 1864; a prisoner at Andersonville nine months; and died March 6, 1865, at Wilmington, N. C., from the effects of his imprisonment.

The following poem relating to the two brothers, William H. and Charles G. Lee, at Antietam, was written by Susie E. Ward, their former teacher at the Guilford Institute:

WHAT THE SICK SOLDIER TOLD ME.

The surgeon said "Remain," but somehow I could not  
stay,  
For the order had been given, and the boys were on their  
way;  
And thinking on the morrow's fight, I saw my brother  
stand,  
Calm in battle, as he used to be, when plowing father's  
land;  
Or I saw him falling, wounded, or lying ghastly—  
dead;  
From my bed of straw upspringing, "I am going too," I  
said.  
So I hurried on just after; on the ground at night we lay,  
And I felt his arm about me in the old accustomed way;  
But when morning came, quick-footed, and our ranks in  
order stood,

He was twenty paces from me: Oh, how boiled my  
fevered blood!

Placed so near him, yet not with him, 'twixt us two a  
score of others,

Till the men passed me down the line, for they knew  
that we were brothers.

Did you ask how went the battle? Why, we lost the day,  
you know,

And at last, when we retreated, I tried hard but could  
not go.

Sick at heart and sick in body, I was falling to the ground,  
But Charley was beside me, his dear arm about me wound;  
While one comrade took our muskets, passed our knap-  
sacks on to others,

That he might be strong to help me, for they knew that  
we were brothers.

O Christian, fellow Christian, is it so with you and me,  
Children of one Heavenly Father, members of one  
family?

Do we live a love so simple? Is a strong arm ever  
thrown

Round him whose faltering footsteps show his strength  
is almost gone?

And when worldly hearts press onward, blindly parting  
us from others,

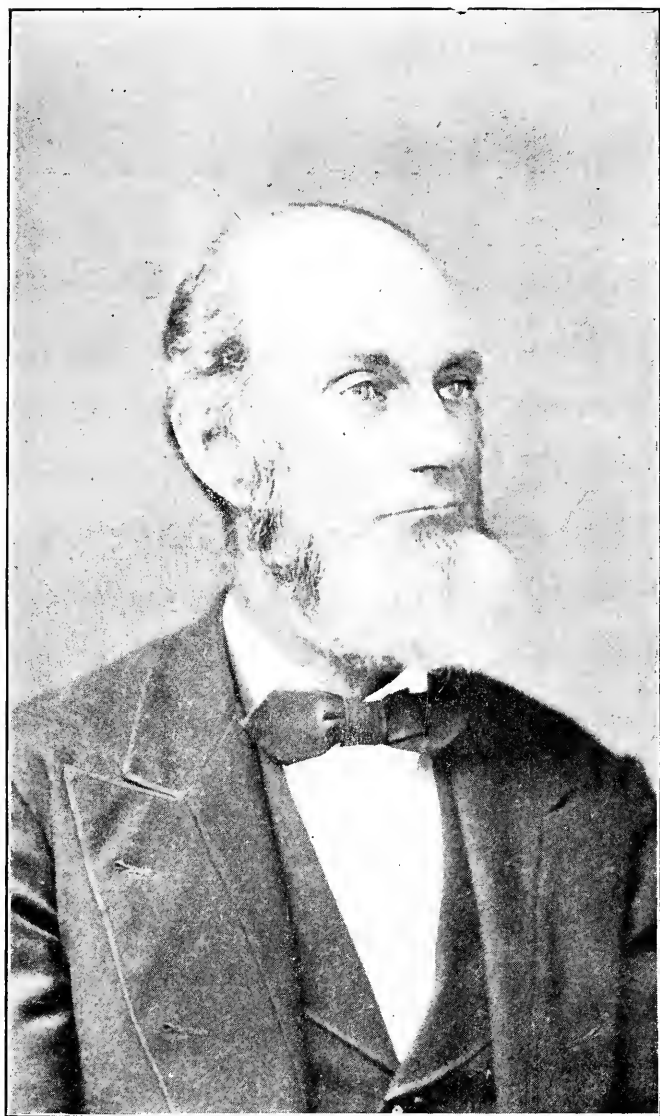
Do their dense ranks quickly step aside, knowing that  
we all are brothers?

MARY PARMELEE MERWIN, daughter  
of Miles Merwin, Sr., and Phebe (Camp)  
Merwin, was married April 27, 1824, to  
Thomas Noble (born April 27, 1797, died

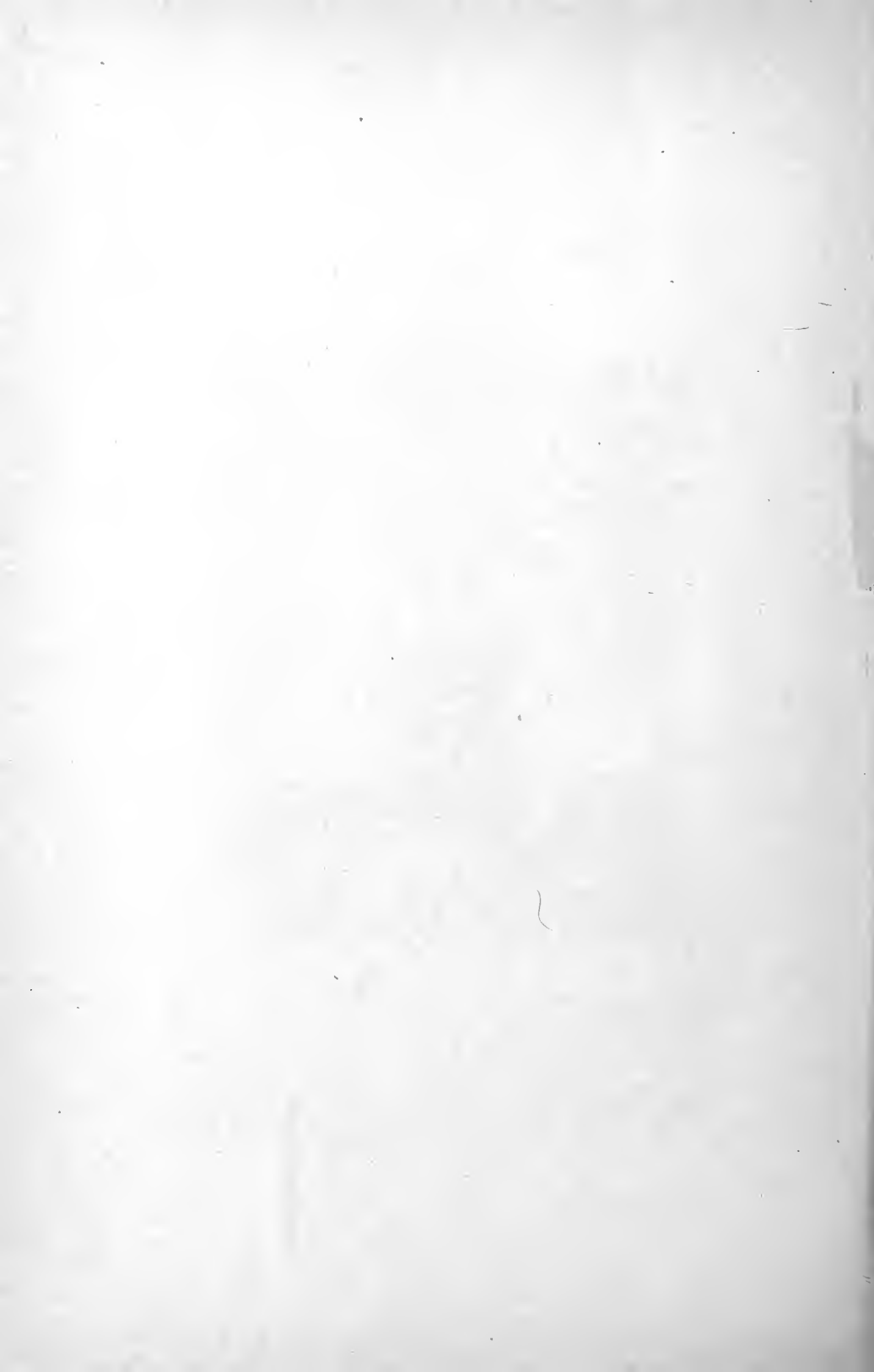
January 20, 1854), of Westfield, Mass., where his ancestors had lived for several generations. They remained in Westfield until 1841, when they removed to Granville, Mass. In 1843 they removed to Cromwell, Conn., remaining there until Mr. Noble's death, which occurred eleven years later. A few months after the death of her husband, Mrs. Noble, with her younger daughter, returned to Durham to care for her aged father, where she remained until a few weeks before her death, when she was taken, in failing health, to the home of her sister Alva, in Cromwell, where she died at the age of seventy-two.

Before her marriage she learned the tailor's trade in Middletown, Conn. Wherever she lived she always made herself useful in church work and in the neighborhood, being one of the reliable and efficient persons whose aid was sought in case of sickness or death, or any emergency; and she had frequent occasion for the exercise of her talents among her kinsmen and acquaintances.

Their children: William Merwin, born February 2, 1825; Mary Amelia, May 29, 1827 (died January 22, 1886); Thomas, May



WILLIAM MERWIN NOBLE  
1825-1906  
Eighth generation





CLARA ADELIA NOBLE  
EMMA AMELIA NOBLE  
Ninth generation





23, 1831; Merwin Lee, September 2, 1834 (died August 20, 1853); Charlotte Ellen, December 23, 1846 (died February 8, 1866).

WILLIAM MERWIN NOBLE, son of Thomas and Mary P. (Merwin) Noble, was engaged for thirty-five years in the manufacture of hammers at Cromwell, Conn., under the firm name of Warner & Noble. During the years of his active life he was one of the leading men of the town, and has held different town offices. He was married May 8, 1850, to Almira Parmelee Mildrum (born June 19, 1826, died January 26, 1891). Their children: Arthur William, born May 29, 1851; Clara Adelia and Emma Amelia (twins), March 10, 1853; Edward Shepard, April 29, 1858; Robert Mildrum, March 16, 1860; William Cleveland, October 2, 1869.

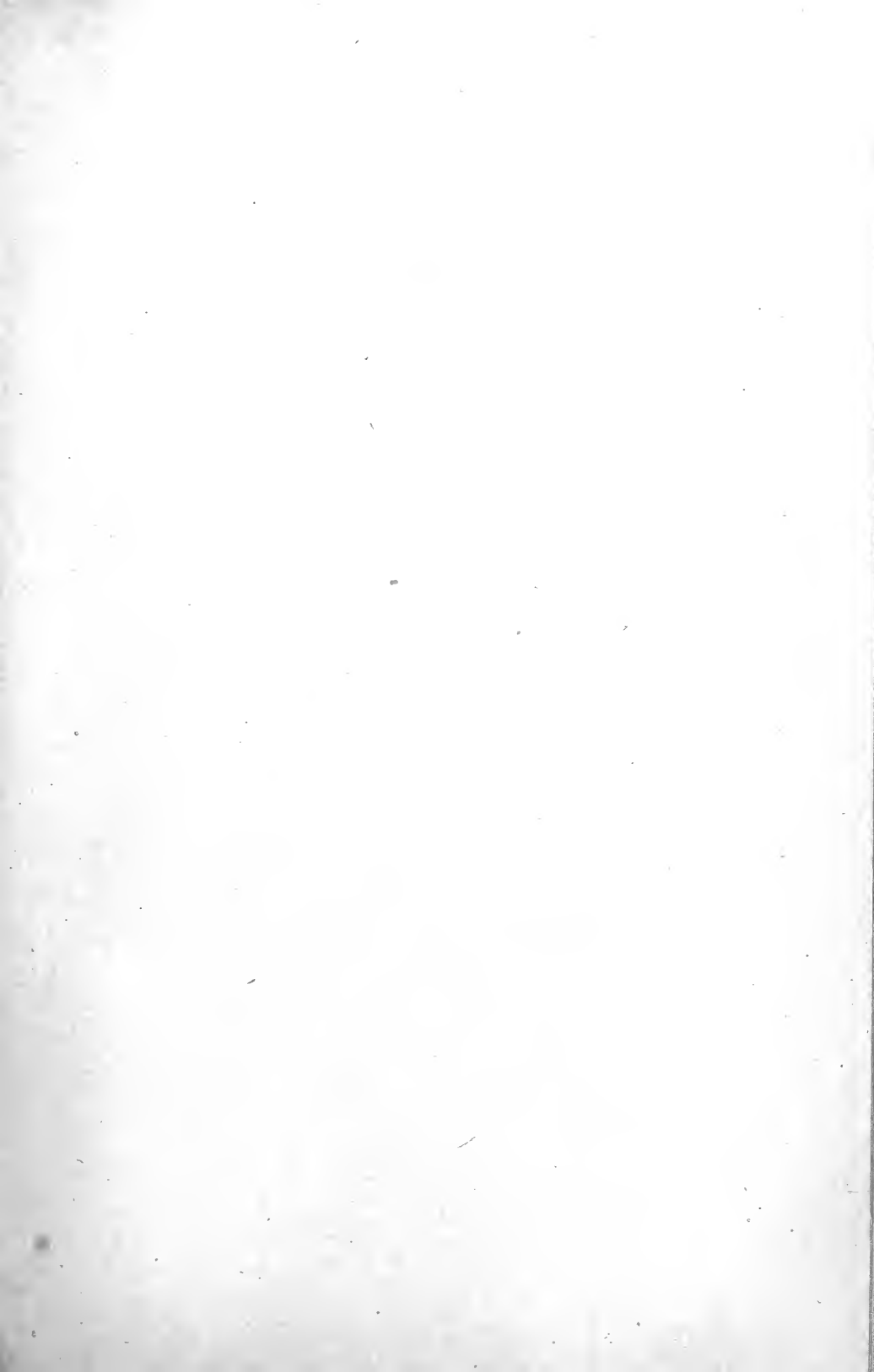
Arthur William Noble, son of William M. and Almira P. (Mildrum) Noble, has been for many years in the hardware business at Riceville, Iowa. In the great fire which occurred there July 20, 1901, when more than fifty places of business were burned, his store and dwelling house were both destroyed. He married Laura Anna Pierce, May 12, 1896.

Their daughter, Julia Charlotte, was born April 5, 1898, and their son, Lucius Pierce, born February 22, 1902, died three days after birth.

Clara Adelia Noble, daughter of William M. and Almira P. (Mildrum) Noble, was married October 20, 1874, to Daniel Webster, of Berlin, Conn. Their children: Mary Emma, born June 21, 1879; Helen, May 26, 1881 (died September 6, 1882); Hattie Louise, December 14, 1883; William John, October 21, 1886; Stewart Noble, July 31, 1888; Gertrude, February 5, 1891.

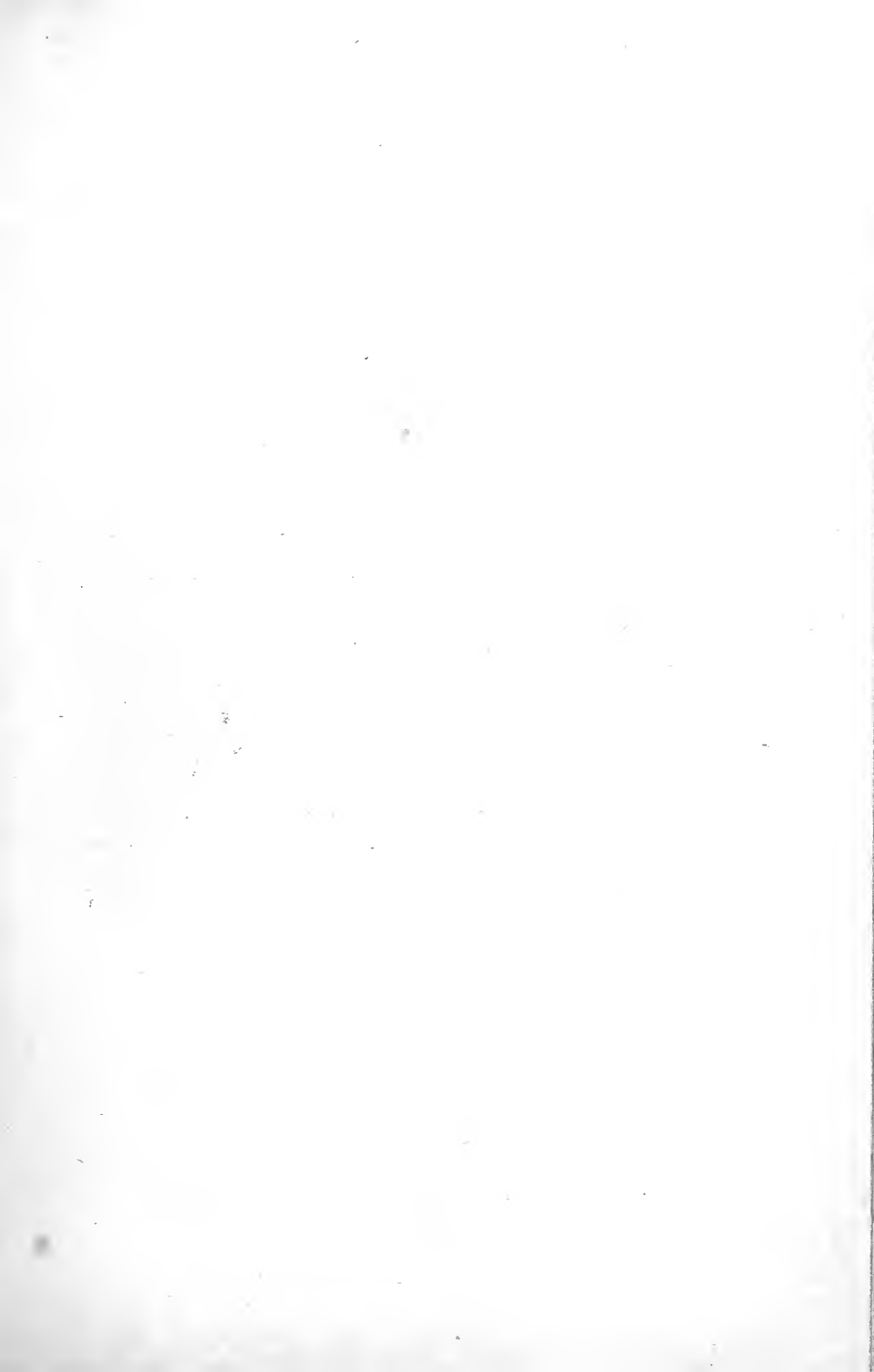
Emma Amelia Noble, daughter of William M. and Almira P. (Mildrum) Noble, with the exception of a few years spent in the West with her brothers, has always lived at the home of her father in Cromwell.

Edward Shepard Noble, son of William M. and Almira P. (Mildrum) Noble, resides in Cromwell, and has been for twelve years with the Peck, Stow & Wilcox Company, in East Berlin. He was married May 17, 1882, to Minnie Augusta Griswold, of Cromwell. They have had three children: Harold Beaumont, born November 27, 1887,





GAYLORD KIMBALL NOBLE  
1889-1908  
Tenth generation

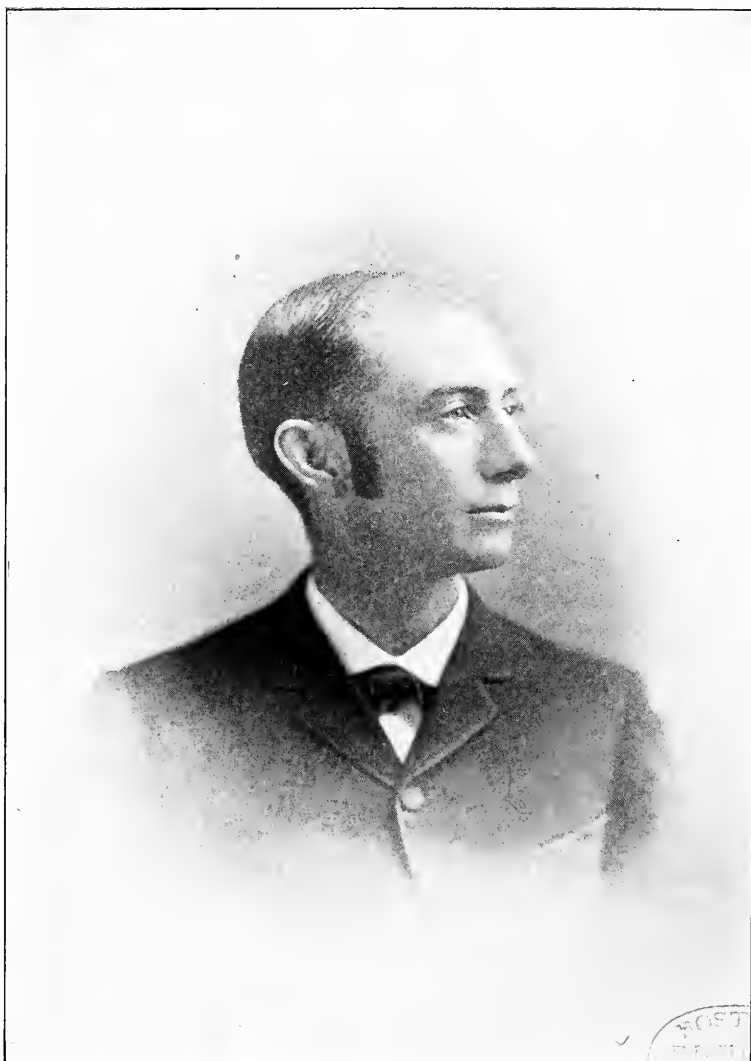




MRS. ROBERT N. NOBLE

ISABEL NOBLE  
Tenth generation





ROBERT MILDNUM NOBLE  
Ninth generation



died August 29, 1888; Le Roy Beaumont was born June 17, 1891; Howard Edward, born March 1, 1896, died August 22, of the same year.

Robert Mildrum Noble, son of William M. and Almira P. (Mildrum) Noble, conducts a hardware store in Riceville, Iowa, and is also engaged in the sale of musical instruments. He was married June 27, 1888, to Elizabeth Sumner Kimball, of Wentworth, Iowa. Their children: Gaylord Kimball, born July 1, 1889; Douglas, December 22, 1894 (died January 2, 1895); Robert Mildrum, Jr., April 11, 1896; Curtis Cleveland, December 27, 1898; Isabel, July 8, 1902.

William Cleveland Noble, youngest son of William M. and Almira P. (Mildrum) Noble, is living in Cromwell, and has been for several years in the employ of the Peck, Stow & Wilcox Company, of East Berlin. He was married to Mary Frances Hill, July 6, 1898. Their son, Kenneth Hill, was born April 3, 1899.

MARY AMELIA NOBLE, daughter of Thomas and Mary P. (Merwin) Noble, married Henry Arnold, of Westfield, Mass., in 1848.

He went to California in 1849, and engaged in mining, returning home after a few years. In 1855 he again went to California, accompanied by his wife. They remained there fourteen years, in 1869 returning to Connecticut with their two sons and settling in Haddam. Their children: Edward Clark, born June 5, 1856, and Frank Hubbard, born January 13, 1858, at Woolsey Flat, Nevada Co., Cal.; two other sons, Charles and Henry, who died in infancy, were born at Lake City, California.

Edward Clark Arnold, son of Henry and Mary A. (Noble) Arnold, was educated at the Middletown High School, at Westfield, (Mass.) Academy, and at Williston Academy, Mass., of which latter he is a graduate. He resides in New York City, where for many years he has held the position of advertising manager for the *Chautauquan Magazine*.

Frank Hubbard Arnold, son of Henry and Mary A. (Noble) Arnold, resides in Waterbury, Conn., where he is employed in the large brass factory of Benedict & Burnham. He was married December 27, 1890, to Mary Hazen, of Haddam, Connecticut.





THOMAS NOBLE

ELIZABETH M. NOBLE

SARAH E. NOBLE

THOMAS H. NOBLE

Eighth and Ninth Generation

THOMAS NOBLE, son of Thomas and Mary P. (Merwin) Noble, removed with his father's family to Cromwell, Conn., when twelve years of age. In 1857, he went to California, crossing the Isthmus, and engaged first in mining, and afterward for six years in the hotel business as partner with his brother-in-law, Henry Arnold. Later they engaged in the same business for three years in Nevada. Mr. Noble returned by the same route, in 1869, to Cromwell, where he has since resided, engaged principally in farming and dairying, and is now president of the Cromwell Creamery Association. He and his family are members of the Congregational Church, and for several years he has had charge of the financial matters of the Ecclesiastical Society, and has also been its clerk and treasurer. With fine musical taste and voice, he has been prominent for many years in the music of the church and Sunday-school. He married April 13, 1870, Elizabeth M. (Baldwin) Belden, of Cromwell. Their children: Sarah Ellen, born May 27, 1871; Thomas Henry, born November 20, 1875.

Sarah Ellen Noble, daughter of Thomas

and Elizabeth M. (Baldwin) Noble, has always lived in Cromwell. She inherits her father's taste for music, and like him is useful in the Sunday-school and the choir, as well as the social life of the church.

Thomas Henry Noble, son of Thomas and Elizabeth M. (Baldwin) Noble, is eighth in the line of descent, and seventh of the name, from Thomas Noble, the emigrant ancestor, who died in Westfield, Mass., in 1704. He has always resided in Cromwell, except a few years which he passed in New Haven as stenographer for Judge William K. Townsend. He is now employed as stenographer with the J. & E. Stevens Company, in Cromwell.

MERWIN LEE NOBLE, son of Thomas and Mary P. (Merwin) Noble, was an ambitious scholar, and was preparing for Yale College at Monson (Mass.) Academy, but during a vacation was drowned, while bathing in Long Island Sound, off Madison, Connecticut.

CHARLOTTE ELLEN NOBLE, daughter of Thomas and Mary P. (Merwin) Noble, removed with her mother from Cromwell to the Merwin homestead in Durham when about

eight years of age. She, like her older brothers and sister, was of a very lively temperament, learned readily, and had a retentive memory. She was the youngest granddaughter, and her presence made the Merwin homestead an attractive place for the many cousins who were slightly older. She died at the age of nineteen, from diphtheria contracted while caring for a young cousin of the next generation.

ALVA MERWIN, daughter of Miles Merwin, Sr., and Phebe (Camp) Merwin, was married September 17, 1822, to Isaac Stebbins Baldwin (born July 17, 1800, died April 11, 1871). They resided in Durham until October, 1834, when they removed with their two children to Sherburne, Chenango Co., N. Y., and one year later to Norwich, N. Y. There their son Lyman, a boy of great promise, was drowned at the age of eleven years.

In November, 1851, they returned to their native State, locating in Cromwell. After the death of her husband nearly twenty years later, Mrs. Baldwin lived for several years with her sister, Mrs. White, at the Merwin homestead

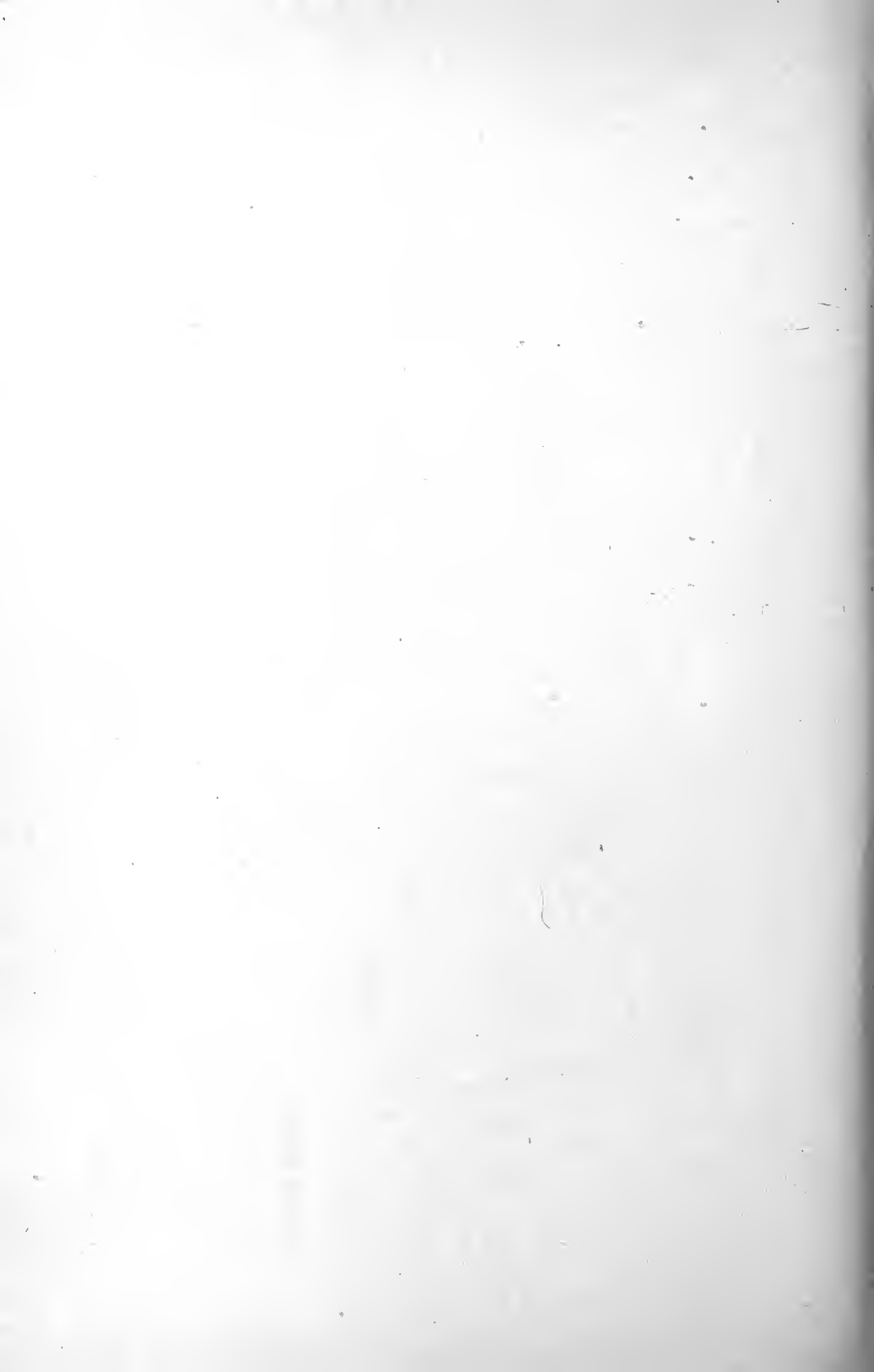
in Durham, returning to her Cromwell home in 1884. Always kindly, cheerful and hospitable, her house was a favorite resort of her nephews and nieces, as well as her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She retained much of her physical and mental vigor to the last, and enjoyed to its close a life of continuous activity and usefulness. Her death, at the age of eighty-eight years, occurred on the fifty-ninth anniversary of the great accession to the church in Durham, during the ministry of Henry Gleason, at which time she became a member of that church. Their children: Mary Elizabeth, born December 28, 1823; Lyman Merwin, February 2, 1827 (died June 1, 1838); Henry Merwin, June 21, 1840 (died May 2, 1864); Sarah Allen, February 14, 1846.

MARY ELIZABETH BALDWIN, daughter of Isaac S. and Alva (Merwin) Baldwin, married April 5, 1842, James Maddock (born in 1816, died November 5, 1843), at Norwich, N. Y. Their daughter, Elizabeth Maddock, was born January 24, 1843. After the death of her father she lived with her mother's parents, taking the name of Baldwin.





MARY ELIZABETH BALDWIN VANSIZE  
1823-1905  
Eighth generation



Mary E. (Baldwin) Maddock was married (second) August 26, 1845, to Ebenezer Hibbard Vansize (born January 10, 1822, died April 17, 1893). In 1850, they removed from Norwich to Utica, where Mrs. Vansize is now living, in the house which she has occupied for more than half a century. She is a constant attendant at church and Sunday-school, faithful to the prayer-meeting, and active in church and charitable work. Their children: William Baldwin, born April 8, 1853; Catherine Hibbard, March 21, 1860 (died April 10, of the same year); Hibbard Kimball, June 20, 1864; Mary Merwin, December 5, 1865 (died September 10, 1866).

Elizabeth Maddock Baldwin, daughter of James and Mary E. (Baldwin) Maddock, was married December 25, 1863, to Lewis Belden (died August 7, 1864), of Rocky Hill, Conn., who served in the Civil war in Company H, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, and died in the service August 7, 1864. She married (second) April 13, 1870, Thomas Noble, of Cromwell, Conn., and they have two children, as before mentioned.

William Baldwin Vansize, son of Eben-

ezer H. and Mary E. (Baldwin) Vansize, has been engaged in various applications of electricity to the useful arts, including the telegraph and telephone. He studied law, and was admitted to the Bar in New York State in 1879, and has since practiced as a patent lawyer and expert in New York City. He was married September 22, 1874, to Marian G. Fellows, of Albany, N. Y. She died in 1893, and he subsequently married Amelia Ridout, of New York City, and, at present, resides in Brooklyn, New York.

Hibbard Kimball Vansize, son of Eben-ezer H. and Mary E. (Baldwin) Vansize, has been for twenty years connected with the Oneida National Bank of Utica, N. Y. He began as corresponding clerk in 1882, and is now paying teller. He married Cora Mary Norton, December 8, 1887. Their daughter, Mary Mildred, was born August 9, 1891.

HENRY MERWIN BALDWIN, son of Isaac S. and Alva (Merwin) Baldwin, served in the Civil war enlisting in Company C, Seventh Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. He was severely wounded in the battle of Olustee, Fla., February 20, 1864, and after two

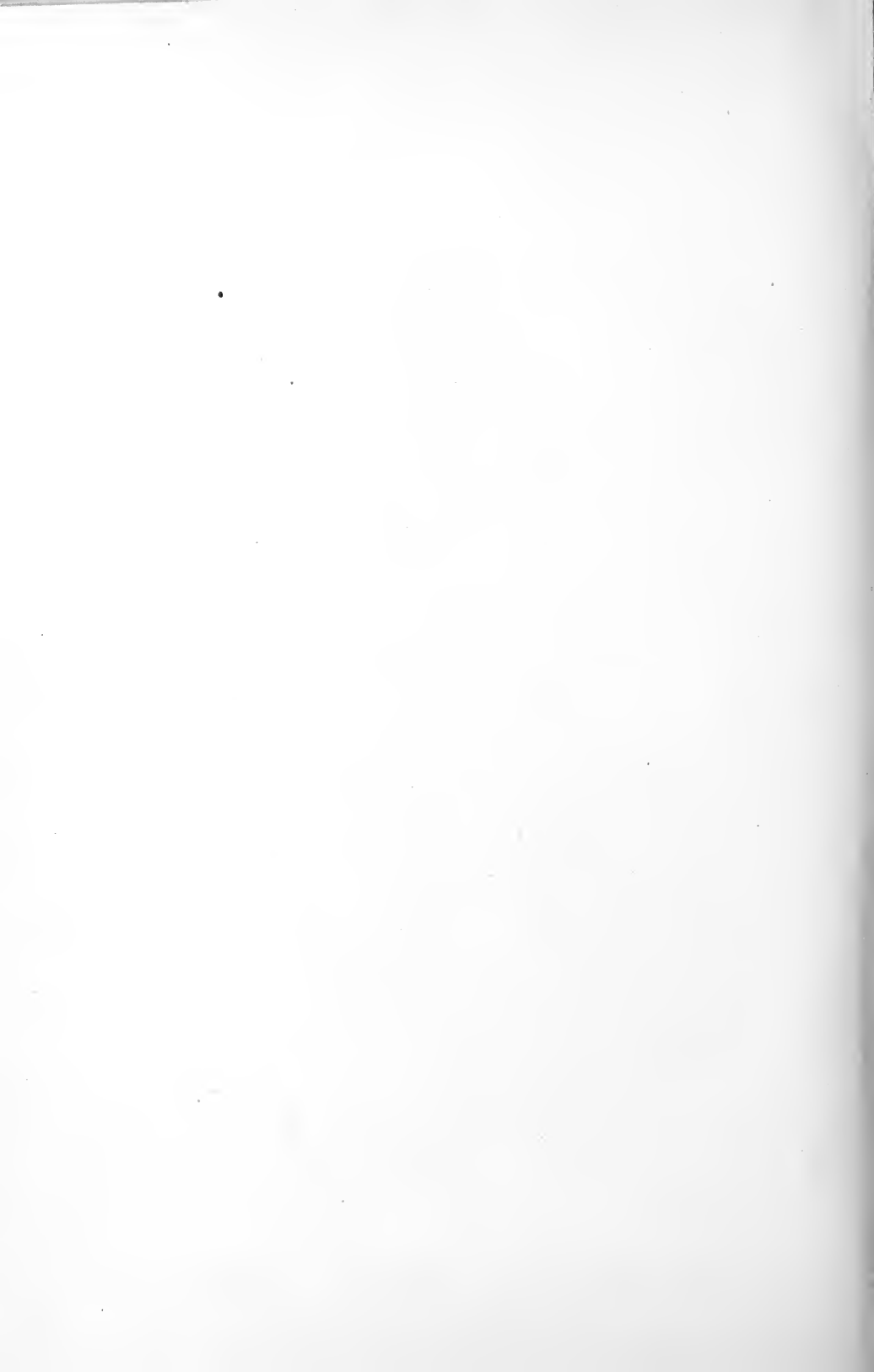


SARAH BALDWIN NEWTON



HENRY MERWIN BALDWIN

Eighth Generation



months spent in the hospital at Beaufort, S. C., was given a furlough, and went to his home at Cromwell, Conn., where he died from illness ten days later.

SARAH ALLEN BALDWIN, daughter of Isaac S. and Alva (Merwin) Baldwin, was married to Henry G. Newton (mentioned below) September 11, 1885. For several years she was a teacher, and later studied medicine, and was graduated in 1885 from the New York Medical College for Women. She has practiced her profession but little, but is actively interested in matters of church, education and charity in New Haven, where she now resides. She is chairman of the Woman's Department of the City Missionary Association of New Haven; chairman of the visiting committee of the New Haven Woman's School Association; a member of the executive committee of the Home for the Friendless, and of the board of managers of the Elm City Kindergarten Association; one of the original incorporators named in the charter of Grace Hospital; a member of the outlook committee of Plymouth Church, and secretary of the Home Department of its Sunday-school; and

the first woman ever registered as a voter in Connecticut.

RHODA MERWIN, daughter of Miles Merwin, Sr., and Phebe (Camp) Merwin, was married June 28, 1829, to Edmund Sage (born July 3, 1804, died May 4, 1878), of Cromwell, Conn., who owned and managed a large farm on the main turnpike between Hartford and New Haven. The six daughters of Miles Merwin, Sr., always had a very strong affection for each other. As their children grew up visits between the families were frequent, and children as well as adults looked upon these gatherings as a great event in their lives. Many such meetings were held in the spacious Sage home, and "Aunt Rhoda" was a household word among her sisters' children.

In later years another sister, Mary, and afterward Alva, with their families, settled in Cromwell, all living within a half mile of each other, making it a favorite rallying place for the others, and the scene of many festive occasions. The three sisters, as well as their husbands and children, were good singers, and



the musical evenings which they spent together were much enjoyed by all.

The life of Mrs. Sage and her husband was later overshadowed by the loss of four of their five children, between the ages of nineteen and twenty-nine years, all living at home until their deaths, which occurred within nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Sage afterward removed to Newark, N. J., where she died a few years later, at the age of sixty-three. Their children: Elizabeth Williams, born June 17, 1830, died August 16, 1859; Frances Merwin, born February 21, 1832, died February 1, 1851; Martha Marietta, born February 13, 1834, died June 9, 1856; Charles Edmund was born February 3, 1838; Henry Lewis, born September 20, 1841, died April 25, 1860.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS SAGE, daughter of Edmund and Rhoda (Merwin) Sage, was a graduate of the State Normal School of New Britain. She was for several years an enthusiastic and very successful teacher, until failing health obliged her to relinquish her work. So devoted to her profession was she that, when cautioned by her physician against continuing in school, she remarked to her friends: "If

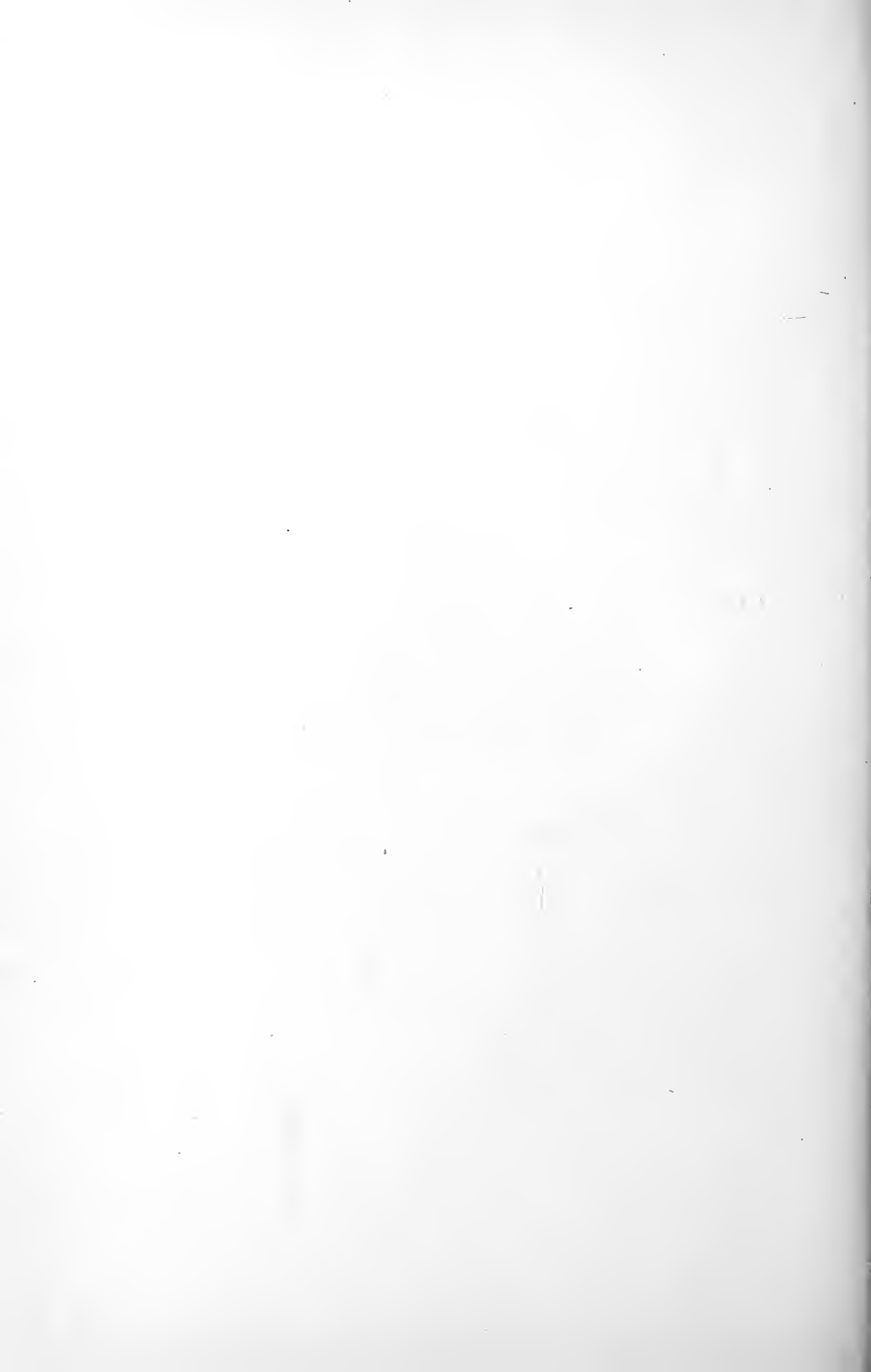
I knew I could live only one year and continue teaching, or two years without teaching, I should choose to teach."

FRANCES MERWIN SAGE died at nineteen, MARTHA MARIETTA SAGE at twenty-two and HENRY LEWIS SAGE at nineteen years of age (children of Edmund and Rhoda (Merwin) Sage). They were all of good ability, kind-hearted, and apparently had reason to expect successful and happy lives. The three cousins, Henry M. Baldwin, Henry Lewis Sage and Henry Gleason Newton, being nearly the same age, were often in company, and the "three Henrys" always had enjoyable times together.

CHARLES EDMUND SAGE, son of Edmund and Rhoda (Merwin) Sage, served through the Civil war, enlisting in the Fifth Connecticut Regiment, in June, 1861. He was sworn into service as a member of the Fifth Regiment Band, was in several battles, and was discharged in 1862; then was appointed carrier of dispatches at the headquarters of the general commanding. Afterward, for ten years, he was located in Newark, N. J., superintending the erection of many buildings, both public and private. Then, purchasing a farm in



CHARLES EDMUND SAGE  
Band 5th Reg. C. V.  
1838-1903  
Eighth generation



Somerset county, N. J., he removed thither, where he at present resides.

Mr. Sage was married September 19, 1868, to Mary Anna Esch. Their children: Walter Merwin, born October 15, 1869; Edmund Esch, July 6, 1871; Frederick Henry, November 24, 1874.

Walter Merwin Sage, son of Charles E. and Mary A. (Esch) Sage, is a graduate of the State Normal School of New Jersey, and of the Law School of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penn.; he also graduated in the classical course of the same college, holding three diplomas, and having the degree A. M. conferred by said college. He is at present principal of the Fairview school, North Hoboken, New Jersey.

Edmund Esch Sage, son of Charles E. and Mary A. (Esch) Sage, is a graduate of the New Jersey State Normal School, holding a life certificate, and is now principal of the Diamond Hill school of Summit, New Jersey.

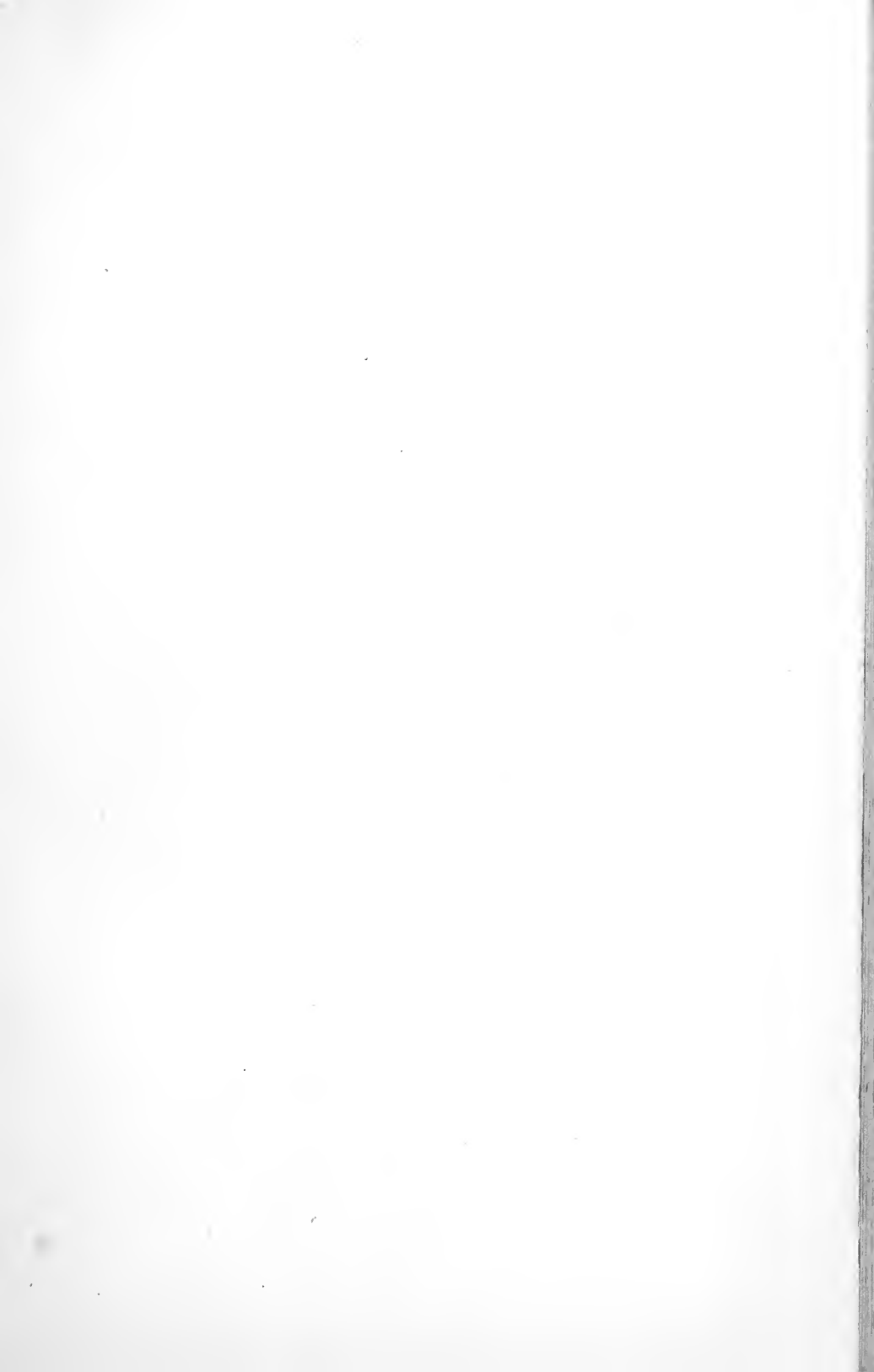
Frederick Henry Sage, son of Charles E. and Mary A. (Esch) Sage, also holds a State Normal life certificate, and is principal

of the Long Hill school, in Gillette, Morris Co., N. J., where he resides.

NOAH MERWIN, younger son of Miles Merwin, Sr., and Phebe (Camp) Merwin, always resided in Durham, his native town. He followed the employment of his father, purchasing a farm near the old homestead. A man of strong convictions, he refused to go with his party when that party selected as a candidate a slave holder and duelist (Henry Clay), and became an Abolitionist when Abolitionists were unpopular, even though he thereby, for a time, alienated some of his best friends. Conscientious in the performance of his Christian duties, he was a constant attendant at the Sabbath services and at the prayer-meeting.

Mr. Merwin married November 24, 1837, Olive Stowe (born November 25, 1809, died May 12, 1884), of Middlefield, Conn. Their children: Lucy Stowe, born November 7, 1839 (died August 30, 1840); Lucy Stowe, June 30, 1841; Edward Payson, March 23, 1844; Charles Baldwin, August 3, 1848.

LUCY STOWE MERWIN, daughter of Noah





EDWARD PAYSON MERWIN  
Eighth generation



and Olive (Stowe) Merwin, was educated at the Durham Academy, Ipswich Female Seminary and Mt. Holyoke Seminary, of which latter she is a graduate. For thirty-eight years she was engaged in teaching, most of the time in the public schools, in the higher grammar grades and the high school department. For twenty-five years she taught in her native State; for two years was assistant principal of the Bucksville Academy, in Kentucky; for five years taught in the middle West, in Pueblo, Colo., and Cheyenne, Wyo., the last two years as principal of the high school; and for four years taught in Portland, Oregon.

Fond of travelling, she improved her vacations in visiting Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands, and interesting points in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and California. She has crossed the continent six times. One year she spent in the Adirondacks.

EDWARD PAYSON MERWIN, son of Noah and Olive (Stowe) Merwin, was educated at Durham Academy and the Indianapolis High School. For some years he was with Colt's Fire Arms Company in Hartford, and afterward was for three years in New Jersey; then

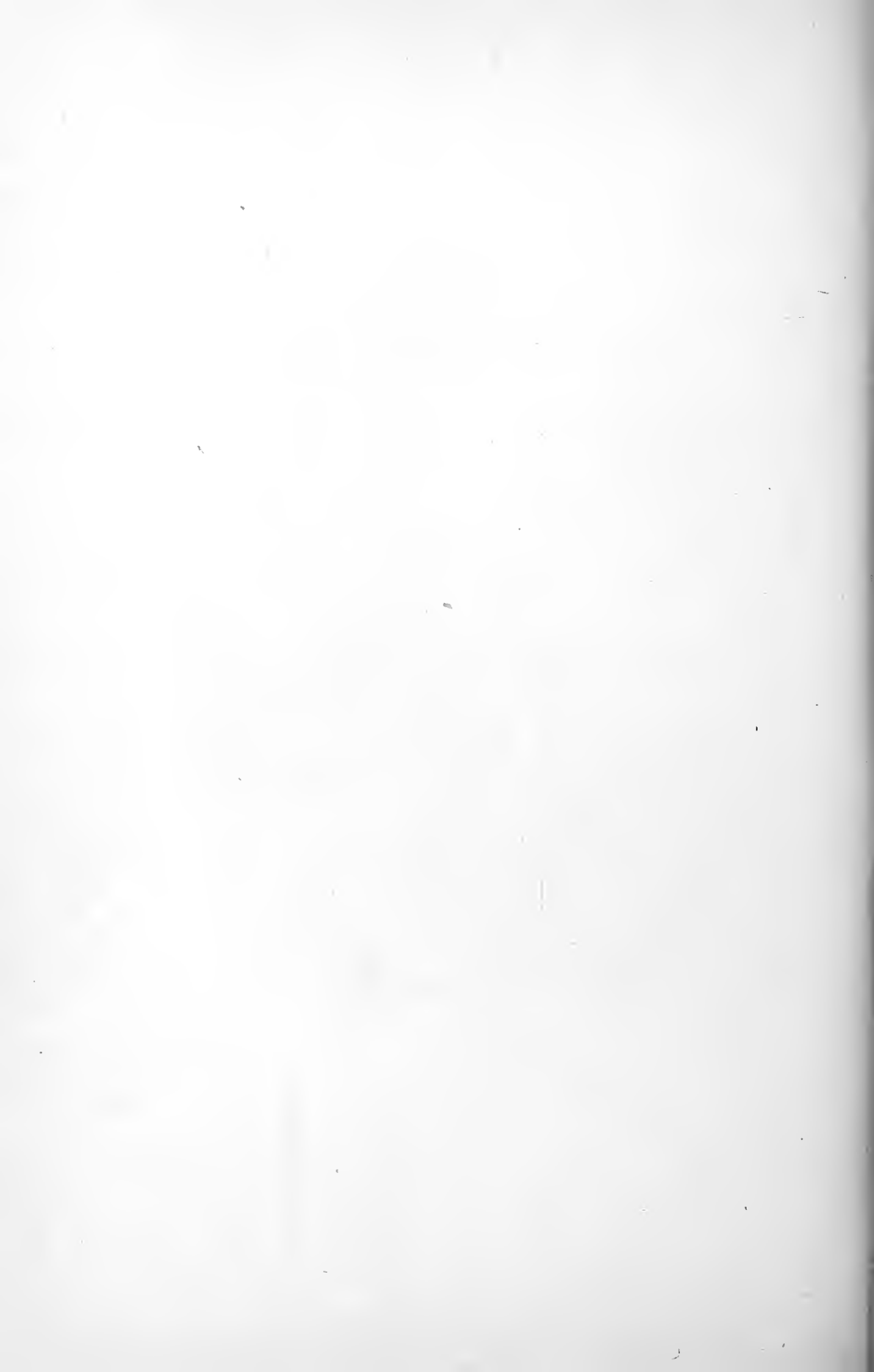
for thirteen years with the Wheeler & Wilson Company, of Bridgeport, Conn.; and for the last twenty years has been with the Morley Button Sewing Machine Company of Portsmouth, N. H., where he resides. He has made some important and valuable inventions on sewing machines.

His aunt, Mrs. Phebe C. White, had a life estate in the Merwin homestead, and after her decease, in 1884, it passed to the children of Noah Merwin. Edward P. Merwin, being the elder son, purchased the interest of his brother and sister, and is now the owner, occupying it during his vacations. The entire Merwin family hope it may long continue in the Merwin name. He was married June 10, 1884, to Martha L. Hulme (born December 22, 1843). Their daughter, Jennie, born July 28, 1885, died August 9, of the same year.

CHARLES BALDWIN MERWIN, son of Noah and Olive (Stowe) Merwin, was educated at Durham Academy. He was for a time in the employ of the Boston & New York Air Line Railroad Company. In 1873 he went to New York and was for five years in the establishment of P. S. Smith; then went into business



CHARLES BALDWIN MERWIN  
1848-1904  
Eighth generation



on his own account, as a manufacturing stationer and printer, in lines requiring the best skill and utmost care. He makes a specialty of supplying seminaries and colleges, and also of legal printing. He is held in high esteem in both business and social relations. He resides in Bayonne, N. J., and is a member of the Newark Bay Boat Club. He was married August 3, 1871, to Ella Jane Crowell (born April 17, 1851, died January 2, 1892), of Durham, Conn. He married (second) October 18, 1893, Ada Emeline Ballard (born November 29, 1868), of New York City.

NANCY MARIA MERWIN, youngest daughter of Miles Merwin, Sr., and Phebe (Camp) Merwin, married December 5, 1838, Gaylord Newton (born July 31, 1804, died December 16, 1883), in whose school she had been a pupil. Before her marriage she taught in the district school of Durham, and was a teacher in the Sunday-school as long as she was able to be there. She was a member of the choir, and always helpful in church and neighborhood; always ready in sickness and trouble to do for others more than her strength

would admit; always cheerful and happy, brave and uncomplaining, and absolutely conscientious. She viewed the slow approach of certain death as calmly as if she were about to take a journey to a neighboring state; to her last hour thoughtful for the welfare of the husband and children she was leaving. Their children: Ellen Maria, born June 24, 1841 (died October 7, 1863); Henry Gleason, June 5, 1843; Caroline Gaylord, January 21, 1845.

ELLEN MARIA NEWTON, daughter of Gaylord and Nancy M. (Merwin) Newton, from the age of fourteen had charge of the household. Gifted with an especially fine ear for music, she became church organist in her early girlhood. Quick-witted and sprightly, she was usually associated with those older than herself, and was a universal favorite, but best loved where best known. She had a class in Sunday-school, and among her latest acts was writing a letter to each scholar, her strength failing before she had completed the last letter.

HENRY GLEASON NEWTON, only son of Gaylord and Nancy M. (Merwin) Newton, was named in memory of Rev. Henry Gleason,



*Henry C. Newton*





who united them in marriage, and during whose short ministry, ended by his death, the church in Durham doubled its membership. He was married September 11, 1885, to Sarah Allen Baldwin, M. D. (before mentioned). He was educated in Durham Academy, entered Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Conn., in 1861, but, his health failing, left in the first year. He taught the South school in Durham in 1862; entered college again in 1863, when his health again failed; taught the South school in Northford in 1865 and 1866, where his great-uncle Burwell Newton had taught many years before in the same building, and to which said Burwell left a fund for the aid of the school. He entered Wesleyan again in 1867, graduating in 1870, being a member of the Eclectic Fraternity and the Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated from the Yale Law School in 1872, taking two essay prizes in Civil and Common Law, and the valedictory at class day, and was admitted to the Bar. He has practiced law in New Haven since that time, retaining his residence in Durham for a long time. He was for ten years acting school visitor in Durham, and

has been attorney for the town most of the time for thirty years. He was elected to the General Assembly in 1885, when he was chairman of the Judiciary committee, and leader of the House. Declared elected the next year by one vote, he claimed a miscount, contested his own election as attorney for his competitor, and succeeded in having himself unseated, and his opponent seated, at the opening of the second day of the session, the shortest time on record. He was elected to the General Assembly from New Haven in 1895, and was chairman of committee on Humane Institutions; obtained the passage of a bill for a State Reformatory, and the adoption by the House of an amendment revising the State Constitution (both of which measures were killed at the next session), as well as several other important laws which still survive. Mr. Newton is the author of some legal treatises; chairman of the board of directors of the City Missionary Association of New Haven from its organization; director and a member of the board of trustees in the New Haven Y. M. C. A.; director of and attorney for the National New Haven Bank;

trustee of the Farmers' & Mechanics' Savings Bank of Middletown; member of the Sons of the American Revolution and Sons of the Colonial Wars; Referee in Bankruptcy for New Haven county; member of State Board of Health. He has been active in Plymouth Church and Sunday-school for thirty years, and is deacon of the Congregational Church in Durham. He is the author of the "History of Durham" in the "History of Middlesex County," published by J. B. Beers & Co. He was president of the day at the celebration of the Durham Bi-Centennial, July 4, 1899, and on the latter occasion wrote the following hymn, which, as it is the only poem extant specially descriptive of Durham, is here inserted:

Two centuries since, the Beaver Dam<sup>1</sup> lay smiling hills  
between;  
A trackless maze was Coginchaug<sup>2</sup> of swamp and forest  
green;  
The settlers' sturdy axe strokes rang and Durham's fields  
were seen,

And we her praises sing.  
Hold we now her bi-centennial,  
May her joy remain perennial,  
Till they on her last millennial,  
Durham's praises sing.

Our fathers early sought to be combined in church estate;  
Their meeting-house upon the Green they built with  
    hearts elate;  
With churches three their children now their labors  
    emulate,<sup>3</sup>

    And Durham's praises sing.  
    Standing Order<sup>4</sup> raise the strain,  
    Methodists take it up again,  
    Churchmen swell the glad refrain,  
    Durham's praises sing.

The Center schoolhouse soon was built, well hewn was  
    every log;  
Then West, Southwest and South appear upon the cata-  
logue;<sup>3</sup>  
The North and Quarry lately joined to recall Cogin-  
chaug,<sup>5</sup>

    And Durham's praises sing.  
    North and Quarry set it ringing,  
    South and Center join in singing,  
    West and Southwest voices bringing,  
    Durham's praises sing.

We celebrate this festal day two hundred years of worth;  
The fairest, loveliest, dearest town that ever was on earth;  
Our heartfelt prayers and earnest vows we mingle with  
    our mirth,

    And Durham's praises sing.  
    Hold we now her bi-centennial,  
    May her glory be perennial,  
    Till they on her last millennial,  
    Durham's praises sing.

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1. All that remains of Beaver Dam is a strip of firm land across Durham Meadows about midway between the causeways.

2. Coginchaug, the Indian name for Durham, signifies Thick Swamp or Long Swamp.

3. Poor rhyme but difficult to avoid.

4. The Congregational Churches were formerly called "the Standing Order," because they were established by law and maintained by taxation.

5. The North and Quarry School Districts united under the name of Coginchaug.

CAROLINE GAYLORD NEWTON, daughter of Gaylord and Nancy M. (Merwin) Newton, was educated at the Durham Academy in its palmy days, and taught for several terms in Durham and Wallingford before her marriage to Henry Huntington Newton, December 9, 1864. In 1866 Mr. Newton purchased the former home of Benjamin H. Coe, the artist, where they have resided ever since. Several pictures painted by Mr. Coe over seventy-five years ago are still in the house.

After her sister's death, she was for many years church organist, and until recently has been a member of the choir. She early had a class in Sunday-school and now has charge of the junior department, and is active in every department of church work.

She has never missed a meeting of the Historical Society, formed in 1899 at the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the town, and has been especially active in its maintenance, and one of the principal contributors to its list of historical sketches, and is also a valued and frequent contributor to the pleasure of the literary circle.









## ERRATA.

Omitted from page 40:

Mary Ellen Arnold, daughter of Henry and Mary A. (Noble) Arnold, born Nov. 10, 1872; died Aug. 16, 1873.

Omitted from page 51:

Edmund Esch Sage was married Oct. 5, 1901, to Anna Louisa Armbruster.

Frederick Henry Sage was married Feb. 15, 1902, to Hattie Augusta Armbruster.

Page 58:

National New Haven Bank should be Yale National Bank.

Page 31 :

Francis Sistere should be Frances Sistare.

## MARRIAGES.

SINCE JANUARY 1, 1903.

1903. April 12. Grace Clara Merwin, p. 16.  
David Henry Haight.
1904. May 29. Charles Benjamin Merwin, p. 16.  
Winnifred Brown.
1904. June 1. Mary Emma Webster, p. 38.  
Lester John Hutchins.
1905. Jan. 2. Edward Clark Arnold, p. 40.  
Dora Diers.
1906. Feb. 1. Ellen Bristol, p. 30.  
Marshall Mott Atwell.
1906. June 2. Fannie Canfield Wetmore, p. 22.  
William Elijah Atwood.
1906. July 25. Hattie Louise Webster, p. 38.  
Leland Walter Gwatkin.
1907. June 29. Albert Clifford Lee, p. 33.  
Harriet Maud Hotchkiss.
1908. May 26. Phebe White Merwin, p. 19.  
Adolph Jean Bode.
1908. Nov. 28. Gertrude Estelle Merwin, p. 14.  
George Baldwin Wells.
1909. June 20. George Barber Merwin,  
Luella McCracken.
1909. Aug. 3. Helen Iola Barhite, p. 18.  
Edwin Adams Holmes.
1909. Sept. 4. Sylvia Maria Barhite, p. 18.  
Archibald V. Davis.







## BIRTHS.

SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 1902.

1902. Sept. 3. Elma to Edmund Esch Sage, p. 51.
1903. Jan. 4, Jessie to Arthur Henry Merwin, p. 19.
1903. Aug 5. George Charles to Frederick Henry Sage, p. 51.
1903. Oct. 31. Edith Ida to William Cleveland Noble, p. 39.
1905. March 1. Charles Lee to Edward Merwin Lee Bristol, p. 30.
1905. May 16. Joseph Lester to Mary Webster Hutchins, p. 38.
1905. Sept. 22. Charles Andrew to Charles Benjamin Merwin, p. 16.
1906. Aug. 19. Dorothy Stone to Grace Merwin Haight, p. 16.
1906. Aug. 31. Esther Russell to Ralph Linsley Merwin, p. 16.
1906. Nov. 23. Ruth to Ellen Bristol Atwell, p. 30.
1907. March 30. Florence Irene to Arthur H. Merwin, p. 19.
1907. July 18. Emily Luetta to Charles Benjamin Merwin, p. 16.
1907. Nov. 14. Mary Anna to Edmund Esch Sage, p. 51.
1908. Aug. 16. Charlotte Griffin to Grace Merwin Haight, p. 16.
1909. June 12. Emma Eleanor to Ellen Bristol Atwell, p. 30.
1909. July 9. Dorothy Beatrice to Edward Clark Arnold, p. 40.

1910. March 16. David Henry to Grace Merwin Haight, p. 16.

1910. May 15. George Raymond to Gertrude Merwin Wells, p. 14.

1910. July 26. Evelyn Clara to George Barber Merwin, p. 16.







## IN MEMORIAM.

CHARLES EDMUND SAGE died August 12, 1903, the first death after this book was first printed.

This was a few days before a gathering of the descendants of our grandfather at the home of Miles Talcott Merwin, in Durham.

Mr. Sage had planned, and was very desirous to be present, but at the time of the meeting he was on a sick bed, from which he never arose. He bore his part in life well and faithfully and his descendants are doing theirs worthily.

EMMA AMELIA NOBLE died November 23, 1903. She and her sister Clara were twins, and, when they were young looked so exactly alike that it puzzled the relatives to tell them apart. She was always much beloved by all who knew her. She lived with her family until her decease, which came after a long and painful illness, during which she was tenderly cared for by her father.

MILES TALCOTT MERWIN, the oldest of the cousins, died July 29, 1904. His manner of death befitted him. Eighty-two years of age, climbing a ladder in his barn, he fell and never recovered from the accident.

Undismayed by misfortune, he had fought the battle of life bravely to the end, and won true success.

CHARLES BALDWIN MERWIN died October 31,

1904. He was the youngest of the cousins. He remembered his Town and the Church of his parents, and the Sunday School he attended in his youth, leaving \$20,000 for the schools of Durham after the decease of his wife. several thousand dollars to the Church, one thousand dollars to the Sunday School, and a fund to establish a school library.

WALTER LEE MERWIN, son of Miles Talcott Merwin, died February 7, 1905. He had been a practicing lawyer in Pittsburg, Penn., for many years. He was called very suddenly, his sickness being less than forty-eight hours. He had done his work well and was highly respected and deeply mourned.

MARY ELIZABETH VAN SIZE died October 15, 1905. She was then the oldest of the cousins. Active and vigorous up to the short illness which preceded her decease, the secretary of a large Sunday School Class, always present at Church services, interested in her descendants, helping wherever she saw help needed, the tribute paid to her memory by her pastor at her funeral was one rarely equaled, and touched the hearts of all.

WILLIAM MERWIN NOBLE died March 8, 1906. He was then the oldest of the cousins. Universally respected, he lived the typical New

England life, and his memory is cherished by many descendants.

HENRY HUNTINGTON NEWTON died October 6, 1907. He was the husband of Caroline Gaylord Newton, they both being descendants in the seventh generation of the first Miles Merwin. He was by all recognized as the best man in the Durham Congregational Church, and was for forty-three years an officer in that Church.

MARY ESCH SAGE, widow of Charles Edmund Sage, died November 19, 1907, and was buried in the Sage Lot in Cromwell, many of the Merwin relatives attending. She had lived her life well. Her worth is attested by her children following in her footsteps.

GAYLORD KIMBALL NOBLE, son of Robert Mil-drum Noble, died October 29, 1908. He was nineteen years old, had finished his preparatory course and entered upon his second year in Ames Agricultural College. The faculty and students of the College united with the citizens of Riceville in their expression of grief and respect.

WILLIAM CURTISS MAINS, husband of Sara Bristol, died January 23, 1909.

Highly educated, well qualified and successful in his chosen profession of the law, earnest

and persistent in every movement for the public good, he was beloved by a host of friends.

MARTHA HULME MERWIN, wife of Edward Payson Merwin, died August 25, 1909, at the old Merwin homestead in Durham, which was owned and occupied by her husband's grandfather and great grandfather. She bore her sickness bravely and was recognized as a worthy member of our tribe.

MARY ELIZABETH GRISWOLD LEE died December 2, 1909.

Her forty-two years of married life were spent in the ancestral home of the Lees in Guilford, Conn.

Before marriage she was a teacher. Notwithstanding her many years of ill health her children are among the most robust of the Merwin descendants, and they fully recognize that she filled the highest place, that of a wise and faithful mother.

HENRY SAGE MERWIN died March 12, 1910. He was then eighty-six years of age, approaching more nearly than any other of that generation, as yet, to the age reached by their grandfather. He occupied the house built for him at the time of his marriage, his two surviving sons being near to care for him in the later months of feebleness of mind and body.

He was a faithful attendant upon the services of Church and Sunday School until his hearing failed, and was always ready to do his share of the world's work.

ADA EMELINE BALLARD MERWIN, widow of Charles B. Merwin, died August 30, 1910.

She was very dear to her husband, who provided generously for her in his will; attractive, and much liked by the large number of his relatives with whom she became acquainted.







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## MERWIN REUNION.

The re-union of the descendants of Miles Merwin Sixth, or Miles Merwin Sr. as he was called in his lifetime, was held at the residence of Miles T. Merwin, in Durham, on Thursday, August 6, 1903. There were present:—Miles Talcott Merwin, Ella E. Merwin, Emily F. Merwin, Agnes D. Merwin, Lucy S. Merwin, Asaph M. Merwin, Harry M. Merwin, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Newton, Henry S. Merwin, of Durham; George B. Merwin, Blue Mountain Lake, N. Y.; Mrs. Mary E. VanSize, Utica, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. John Ives, Leland H. Ives, Mrs. James P. Platt and daughter Margery, Martha S. Wetmore, of Meriden; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Lee, Albert Clifford Lee and Miss Hotchkiss, (since Mrs. A. C. Lee) of Guilford; Mr. and Mrs. A. Earle Baldwin and daughter Harriet, of Branford; Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Newton, Charles Sherman Lee, Mr. and Mrs. William Randall Lee, of New Haven; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Noble, Sarah E. Noble, T. Harry Noble, of Cromwell, Caroline Newton Stevens.

Letters of regret and of greeting were received from many absent members, among them, from Benjamin Foote Merwin and Clara, his wife, of Blue Mountain Lake, Adirondacks, N. Y., on behalf of themselves and their seven children; Walter L. Merwin of Pittsburg, Penn., Charles B. Merwin of New York City, Ellen Lee Bristol

and S. Allen Bristol, her husband, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and their thirteen children and grandchildren, all signing; Edward Arnold, of New York City, Maria Merwin Black, Caroline Black Safford, of Middlefield, Sylvia Elizabeth Barhite of Ridgefield, Conn.; Gen. Edward Merwin Lee of New York City sent a letter especially commemorating the virtues of the three wives of Miles Merwin.

Of those present there were 14 grand-children with husbands and wives, 17 great-grand-children, and five great-great-grand-children of Miles Merwin (1772-1859).

A Miles Merwin Association was formed with the intent of including other descendants of the original Miles Merwin who settled in Milford.

The Abner Newton who came to Durham in 1724, was a grandson of that Miles Merwin, and there are many other descendants of the first Miles Merwin, probably several thousand, scattered through the country, many in New Haven, Milford and surrounding towns.

Miles Talcott Merwin, the oldest grand-child present, was elected President and patriarch of the association. Mary Elizabeth Vansize, of Utica, N. Y., the next oldest grand-child present, was chosen Vice-President and matriarch.

Caroline G. Newton, who was elected Secretary, wife of Henry H. Newton, of Durham,

read a historical paper, a part of which was as follows:

“There is a beautiful old cemetery in the town of Windsor, and the steep green bank from its western border slopes down to the quiet waters of the Farmington River. The newer graves are made close to the wall of the plain white church, for this cemetery is literally a church yard, and has been, since the first one was laid there, about the year 1636. The earliest stones have disappeared, if indeed any were placed there in the first days when there was constant fear of the Indians; but there is one to the memory of Eunice Talcott Hooker, a relative of us all, daughter of Gov. Talcott, and wife of Nathaniel Hooker, dated 1643. There are many noted names here:—Gov. Toucey, Oliver Ellsworth, Gov. Roger Wolcott: Above the grave of Wolcott is the inscription:

“Earth’s highest station ends in ‘Here he lies’  
And dust to dust concludes her noblest song.”

But the one with which the record of Miles Merwin has to do is an oblong box-like structure of brown sand-stone; on the sides of which is carved this inscription:

“In memory of Rev. John Wareham.  
He was installed Pastor of this church  
at its organization in Plymouth, Eng-

land, in 1630. They arrived in this country the 30th of May the same year, and remained at Dorchester, Mass. five years, when they removed to this town. Here Mr. Wareham continued his pastoral labors to his flock until April 1, 1670, when he slept in the Lord. He was among the most eminent of New England's early Divines.

Erected by his Church, 1842."

The Memorial History of Hartford County says that "Miles Merwin was a nephew of this Rev. John Warham," but he was a nephew of the minister's wife, Mrs. Abigail Blanchard Warham. He came with her as a boy, and continued living with or near her for many years, and his removal to Milford was later than has been supposed, for he is mentioned in the Windsor Records in 1648 and "in 1650 he bought from Roger Williams the Marshfield place, and sold it in 1652." This land, still known as the Miles Merwin lot, is a few rods south of the place where once lived the Mr. Stiles who wrote the History of Windsor.

The present Congregational Church in Windsor stands on the site of the first church, and the original inhabited plot of ground must have been larger than the present green, which still bears the name of Palisado Green, for in the

year 1636 every dwelling was within the enclosure surrounded by palisades for protection from the Indians. Miles' home at first was, of course, with his relatives, but he early married, and established a home for himself, his first wife being Elizabeth Baldwin.

His land is on the eastern side of the Farmington River, but it was not many years before the Rev. Mr. Warham removed his residence to the west side of the river, crossing it in a row-boat every Sunday for the weekly services.

There are descendants of the name of Merwin still living near the old Palisado Green, of whom John is the ancestor.

Miles married in Milford Sarah Platt Beach, the daughter of Richard Platt, and the widow of Thomas Beach. She died in 1670, the same year in which occurred the death of Rev. John Warham. After her death, Miles married once more, Sarah Scofield, who outlived him. Miles Merwin had twelve children, and the widow Beach having six of her own by Thomas Beach, made a good old-fashioned family, if all were living at one time. Eliza or Elizabeth, John, Abigail, Thomas, Samuel, Miles, Daniel, Martha and Mary or Maria, twins, Hannah, Deborah and the other Daniel. Of these twelve all but one, Daniel, lived to grow up and marry. Eliza married a Canfield; Abigail, a Scofield;

John, born in 1650, we find settled on the homestead, but the fact that his descendants are still in Windsor, may mean that he afterward returned to that place and settled on the Windsor homestead. Thomas settled in Norwalk, Samuel married Sarah Woodin and settled in New Haven. The descendants of Miles Merwin still own Pond Point and Merwin's Point in Milford. Daniel died young. Martha married James Prince, and Mary, a Hull. Hannah married Abel Holbrook, and Deborah, Samuel Burwell.

The youngest of these children, Deborah Merwin, born in 1670, married Samuel Burwell, and their daughter Mary, born in 1700, married Abner Newton, and came with him to Durham. The wife of Abner Newton and Daniel Merwin, coming about the same time, being first cousins, Gaylord Newton and Nancy Merwin, marrying nearly 120 years later, were really fifth cousins, though entirely ignorant of that fact.

Miles, the fourth son of the first Miles, married Hannah Wilmot Miles, widow of Samuel Miles. His son, Daniel, born about 1688, married Sarah Botsford, a woman a few years older than himself, and in 1721, they removed to Durham, three years later, their cousins Abner and Mary Newton coming also.

The Town of Durham had then been laid out

only about 15 years, the original plan, of which I have a copy, being dated 1707, the General Assembly a little before that time empowering the Guardian of Hezekiah Talcott to sell a sufficient number of lots on each side of the main street for the settlement of the place. Hezekiah came of age Feb. 1706-7. The tract of land marked on the plan as his, extended the whole length of Main Street, from Mr. Burckel's to below the Green, and had been granted to his grandfather, Col. John Talcott, one of the first settlers of Hartford, by the General Court, for services in the Indian Wars.

The cousins Newton and Merwin settled on this Main street, Newton in the south part, near the Mill Pond on Allyn's Brook, which he bought, and Daniel Merwin in the house now owned by William C. Hubbard.

Daniel Merwin bought a very large farm and many acres of the same land are still owned by his descendants. Some of this land was in Middletown and some in Durham, and it was many years before the boundary line between these two towns was established so that he could know exactly in which town taxes were due. Mr. Merwin had much to do with fixing the line which now stands, and some papers with records of surveys and petitions etc., are still in the carved old oaken chest which has been inherited by his great-grandson, Miles Talcott Merwin.



Daniel died April 17, 1766, in his 78th year. His wife, Sarah Botchford Merwin, died Sept. 23, 1764, 82 years old, and their grave-stones, large and handsome brown sand-stone, stand on the summit of the hill in the old grave-yard. They had three children, Daniel, born in Milford, May 15, 1718; Miles, afterward known as Lieut. Miles Merwin, also born in Milford, March 29, 1721; and Elizabeth, born Feb. 14, 1722-3.

This Miles Merwin, son of Daniel Sr., was a young man only 18 years of age at the time of the organization of the first military company in 1739. James Wadsworth, born in Farmington in 1675, and one of the first settlers in Durham, at this time more than sixty years old, was made Colonel of the 10th Connecticut Regiment of Militia, and the cartridge box now in the possession of Miles Talcott Merwin, marked 2nd Company 10th Regiment, seems proof that it was the one carried by Lieut. Miles Merwin under Col. Wadsworth.

In the Colonial Records of Connecticut, page 70, Vol. II, appears this record of the General Assembly held in Hartford, May 1757.

“This assembly do establish Mr. Miles Merwin to be cornet of the troop of horse in the 10th Regiment in this Colony;” the cornet of a company being at that time the officer who car-

ried the standard in a company or troop of horse.

Seven years later, May, 1764, page 255, Vol. XIII, of the Colonial Records, reads; "This assembly do establish Mr. Miles Merwin to be Lieut. of the troop of horse in the 10th Regt. in this Colony." Long before this, and soon after he came of age, this Miles of the 4th generation had married Mary Talcott, a daughter of the Hezekiah Talcott who had owned the most of the land comprising Durham Main Street.

Another paper tells how notable the Talcott family had already been in the history of the Connecticut Colony, her grandfather, John Talcott, having been the means of securing the Charter which Wadsworth hid in the Charter Oak, and her Uncle Joseph Talcott having been for seventeen years Governor of Connecticut at the time of her marriage with Miles Merwin.

Their first son Miles was born May 12, 1744; two years later came Daniel, then at intervals of three years Job, Noah, Mary, Rhoda, Sarah and David.

This Miles, the fifth generation, married Mary Parmelee and had eleven children, three only being sons, Miles, Jesse and Noah. The eight daughters being of no particular consequence need not be named.

This Miles, the sixth generation, and our

grandfather, married Phebe Camp, Nov. 27, 1794. A bit of her wedding dress is before us, and the chairs on which they sat on their wedding day more than a century ago."

\* \* \* \* \*

Addresses were made by Miles Talcott Merwin and Mary E. VanSize. Many reminiscences were called up by the others especially by Wealthy S. Ives, Henry S. Merwin, William H. Lee, and Lucy Stowe Merwin.

Many pieces of the old family china and silver were used at the table, and called forth reminiscences from the older ones who had used them as children.

The gathering had been planned as a lawn party, but during the afternoon the rain fell in torrents and continued until late in the night. Two teams had driven from Guilford, one from New Haven, two from Meriden, and one from Cromwell. The rain detracted nothing from the festivities, social intercourse and merriment within doors.

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The small figures prefixed to some names indicate the generation in the line of descent from the emigrant ancestor

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